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Youngsters are guests at new Co-op opening

Trust signs up to apprentice charter

Georgina's mum Lesley at the memorial event at Hesketh Bank Booths supermarket.

Memorial to young victim of Arena bomb

A MEMORIAL bench and a plaque were unveiled in Hesketh Bank to remember one of the victims of the Manchester Arena bomb attack last May.

The family of Georgina Callander attended the special ceremony held at the Booths store in Hesketh Bank on Saturday, December 2.

Georgina, 18, had a part-time job at Booths in the village. She lost her life in the arena explosion after going to see her idol, singer Ariana Grande, in concert. She was one of 22 people killed in the terror attack.

Continued inside

NATIONAL ACCOLADE FOR MATERNITY UNIT

Report by **Henry James**

...and little Ava-Marie is one of the babies to benefit from staff's expertise in detecting potentially fatal condition

ORMSKIRK Hospital's maternity unit has been nationally recognised for detecting a condition which can lead to babies being stillborn.

The Wigan Road maternity unit has been ranked in the top 10 in the country for detecting unborn babies who are Small for Gestational Age (SGA).

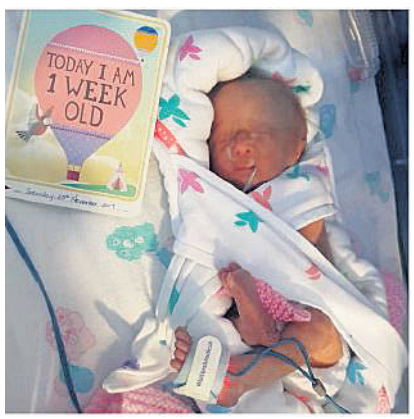
SGA can stop the baby growing during pregnancy and can cause an increased risk of stillbirth and can affect up to 10% of mothers-to-be.

Skelmersdale mother-of-two Louise Flavell and her baby Ava-Marie benefited from early detection of SGA. This meant the baby girl - weighing 5lbs 1oz (1.39kg) - is now hoping to be home in time for Christmas.

Ava-Marie arrived safely in week 34 of pregnancy on Saturday, November 18 thanks to the expertise of doctors and nurses at Ormskirk maternity unit. The team achieved their rating by implementing the "Growth Assessment Protocol" designed by the Perinatal Institute.

The aim is to reduce the number of stillbirths associated with growth restriction during pregnancy and involves producing a growth chart for each patient. It is tailored specifically to their height, weight and ethnicity.

The growth of the baby is then closely monitored so any concerns can be immediately acted upon. A training programme for the midwives and doctors was undertaken to ensure detection rates are as high as possible.



Ava-Marie at one week old. She 'arrived' safely in week 34 of pregnancy thanks to the expertise of staff at Ormskirk Hospital's maternity unit. Now she could be home in time for Christmas

Doctor Alice Bird

The Department of Health announced in its new maternity strategy last month that it aimed to reduce the number of stillbirths by half by 2025. This is in line with the Saving Babies' Lives care bundle launched by NHS England last year.

This looks at reducing smoking during pregnancy, improved detection of small babies, raised awareness of reduced fetal movements and improves monitoring of babies' heart rates during labour.

Louise Flavell, tweeted: "Cannot praise the Neonatal staff at @SONHStrust enough for the way they are looking after my gorgeous girl #preemie #34weeker #nhsstaffrock #ThankYou."

Doctor Alice Bird, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, said: "Congratulations to the whole maternity team on having an average SGA detection rate of 60.3% in 2017. This is far higher than the national average of 41.1%. These figures are excellent and put our trust in the top 10 in the country, excellent news for patients like Louise - well done to the whole team.

"It's also positive we are already addressing issues highlighted in the national maternity strategy and preventing the number of still births at Ormskirk Hospital. This is reassuring for mothers-to-be across Lancashire and Merseyside."

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Lancashire Police failing to record more than 20,000 crimes each year!

Inspectors' report labels force's performance 'inadequate'

Report by **Henry James**

A DAMNING report has labelled Lancashire Constabulary's performance in recording reported crimes as 'inadequate.'

The assessment by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, based on examination of crime reports for the period October 1 2016 to March 31 2016, estimates that the constabulary fails to record more than 20,000 reported crimes each year.

They found that 15.7 per cent of all reported crimes went unrecorded, including serious crimes such as sexual offences, domestic abuse and rape. A particular cause of concern for inspectors was the force's recording rate for violent crime of just 78.3 per cent, meaning that more than 21 per cent was not recorded.

HMICFRS previously inspected the accuracy of crime recording in Lancashire Constabulary in 2014.

HM Inspector of Constabulary, Michael Cunningham, said: "Our inspection found that Lancashire Constabulary must make many improvements to how it records reported crime. We found a number of the crime-recording practices to be unacceptable, in particular how it under-records some serious offences. We found that Lancashire Constabulary fails to record over 20,000 reported crimes each year.

Lancashire Constabulary's crime-recoding performance has been rated 'inadequate'

"Some of these failings are a consequence of the constabulary not sustaining changes made following the completion of the recommendations for improvement made in our 2014 report. This is undermining the effectiveness and efficiency of its crime-recording arrangements.

"I'm disappointed to find that the constabulary is currently under-recording crimes where the victim is sometimes vulnerable including some victims of domestic abuse.

"Immediately, the constabulary must identify and address gaps in its systems and processes for identifying and recording all reports of crime."

A spokesman for Lancashire Police responded: "We acknowledge the findings of the report and we are already acting upon the recommendations to ensure that crimes are properly recorded, investigated and victims of crime are at the heart of everything we do. This is vital to ensure we continue to have the public's trust and confidence."

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Man airlifted to hospital after legs trapped in machinery

A MAN, believed to be a farm worker, had to be airlifted to hospital after getting his legs trapped in machinery.

The incident occurred in the Scarisbrick area, near to Long Meanygate, on the morning of Monday November 27.

Fire rescue services from Ormskirk and an Urban Search & Rescue team from Bamber Bridge and Chorley Fire Stations, attended the scene and helped free the 27-year-old man, who was subsequently airlifted to Royal Preston Hospital.

A posting on a Lancashire Fire and Rescue Services social media page read: "Rescued a man trapped by his legs in machinery at premises on Long Meanygate, Scarisbrick at 8.42 this morning. The casualty was taken to hospital by air ambulance."

A spokesperson for North West Ambulance Services told the Champion: "We received a call at 8.22am (on Monday, November 27) to attend to an incident. The patient was taken to Royal Preston Hospital by helicopter."

A spokesperson for the Health and Safety Executive said: "We are aware of this incident and are making initial enquiries."

Council emphasise CCTV team's key role in keeping town safe

Report by **Kenny Parker**

WEST Lancs Council chiefs say the authority and its partners are working hard to ensure Ormskirk is safe in the run-up to Christmas.

The council's CCTV system watches over the borough to provide reassurance to the community, as well as being a valuable crime-fighting tool for the police.

The cameras are monitored 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and operators provide valuable assistance in preventing and solving crime.

In 2016/17 the CCTV Unit was involved in 6,045 incidents. In addition to the 282 arrests that the CCTV operators assisted with, a number of the incidents also resulted in the police or PCSOs being able to intervene at an early stage to prevent trouble from escalating into something more serious.

Between November 2016 and November 2017, the operators played a key role in increasing road safety by either supporting the police or directly observing 98 incidents involving suspected drunk drivers.

The operators also monitor suspected drug use and made 76 reports of possible drug-related incidents during the same period resulting in a number of arrests.

Operators keep in close contact with local businesses and the police through the Shopwatch radio scheme, meaning officers can be alerted and respond to any incident as quickly as possible.

Significant

Councillor Kevin Wright, the council's portfolio holder for health and community safety, said: "Crime is low in West Lancashire and we want to keep it that way. Our CCTV system provides excellent value for money in playing a significant role in helping to achieve that.

"With Christmas around the corner we want people to feel safe when they are shopping or enjoying an evening out.

"I am particularly pleased to see the role that CCTV plays in relation to drunk drivers. Driving under the influence of alcohol is a crime and is extremely dangerous. You could injure or kill yourself or others. Please leave your car at home this Christmas."

Dave Tilleray, West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership chairman, commented: "We want everyone to enjoy themselves this Christmas but we would also encourage people to help themselves by behaving in a responsible manner and looking after their own personal items."

And West Lancashire Police Inspector Adrian Jolly said: "The CCTV system is a powerful tool that will assist in not only preventing crime but enable my staff to identify the small minority who are intent on committing crime or anti-social behaviour. We will be working closely with our partners over the festive period to ensure a Happy Christmas is had by all and that people feel safe."

There are currently 107 public open space cameras across the borough, including Ormskirk town centre and various key locations.

Georgina's mum Lesley and family at Saturday's memorial event at Hesketh Bank Booths supermarket.

Village pays special tribute to Manchester bomb victim

From Page 1

Lesley, Georgina's mother, unveiled the plaque and bench at the ceremony, watched by members of her family, friends and work colleagues from Booths.

A guide dog has also been trained in memory of Georgina, and money to allow this to happen was raised by Booths colleagues and customers. The dog, a labrador, has been named after Georgina.

Booths also donated the plaque.

During the ceremony, there was a balloon release and Hesketh Bank Silver Band played Beauty and the Beast and Somewhere Over the Rainbow, which were two of Georgina's favourite songs.

Georgina's brother, Daniel, also spoke.

Headlines Hair in Church Road, Tarleton, who are Lesley's hairdressers paid for the bench.

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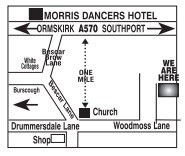

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Don't be tempted by loan sharks!

Council advises residents to steer clear of illegal money lenders

WEST Lancs Council is advising residents in the borough to steer clear of loan sharks.

People who are having money troubles this Christmas and might be tempted to borrow cash from loan sharks are being advised DON'T!

Loan sharks are illegal money lenders who often target families on low income. They may seem friendly to start with, but borrowing money from them is never a good idea even if your credit rating is poor or you only need a small amount of money for a short while.

You will pay far more interest than you would through legal borrowing. Some loan sharks resort to intimidation and violence after they have lent you money, and you are often pressured into borrowing more money to repay one debt with another.

The council offers a free, independent and confidential Money Advice Service to council tenants. Advisers can help you with debt problems, and offer advice on how to manage bills, claim benefits, and negotiate debt payment programmes. They can also advise you on alternatives to loan sharks such as Credit Union. Knowsley Mutual Credit Union, www.knowsleymutualcu.co.uk, is one that operates in West Lancashire.

For more details please visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/money-advice. To use the service please email moneyadvice@westlancs.gov.uk or call the team on 01695 585230.

Councillor Jenny Forshaw

An appointment can be made to visit you at home or in one of the council's customer service points in Skelmersdale or Ormskirk.

Non council tenants can contact Citizens Advice on 0344 245 1294 for advice and support. Citizens Advice Lancashire West is based in unit 47 at the Concourse Shopping Centre in Skelmersdale. Their website is www.citizensadvicelancashirewest.org.uk.

Councillor Jennifer Forshaw, the council's portfolio holder for housing and landlord services, said: "The festive season is a time when we want to buy nice presents for our family or go all out to make Christmas Day really special.

Threats

"If you are short of money and struggling for credit then going to a loan shark can be tempting. But in the long run this can create massive problems for you and your family. So if you are one of our tenants please call our Rent and Money Advice Service so you don't fall into the loan shark trap."

Some loan sharks will threaten you by saying you will be prosecuted and even sent to prison if you don't pay them. This is not true, as an unlicensed lender a loan shark has no legal right to recover the debt. Any lender - licensed or unlicensed - who harasses you is breaking the law.

To report a loan shark problem and get help you can call the national government hotline on 0300 555 2222; email reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk; or text LOAN SHARK and the lender's details to 60003.

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Council hits back in row over switch-on

Butchers' claims refuted as authority says event received 'lots of positive comments'

Report by **Kenny Parker**

WEST Lancs Council chiefs have defended arrangements for the town's Christmas lights switch-on event following claims that they had failed to fully support local businesses that trade in the town all year round.

Mark Shepherd of Broughs butchers said his company had lost "hundreds of pounds worth of business" and been left with unsold food because, he claimed, trade at a barbecue stall outside their premises in Moor Street was affected by an outside caterer licensed by the council.

Mr Shepherd added that they had held the stall on switch-on night for the past 13 years but this year for the first time they had been questioned about authorisation.

However, the council have hit back saying the switch-on event was enjoyed by "huge crowds" and proved even more popular than previous years with almost double the footfall in the town centre from last year's event, despite the wet weather.

A spokesman for the authority said that the council had received a lot of positive comments about the event, particularly on the night itself.

Addressing Mr Shepherd's specific claims, the spokesman said Broughs had only taken up occupation of their new premises in Moor Street from 2016 and that in that year a marquee had been located in the centre of Moor Street in the vicinity of Broughs.

The statement added: "No general permissions have been granted for retailers to trade outside of their premises, particularly at the Christmas lights switch-on event in Ormskirk town centre, notwithstanding a small number of cafes/licensed premises who have planning permissions granted for pavement cafes in front of their premises. There are no such permissions in place with respect to Broughs' retail operation.

"Had Broughs approached the council in advance to discuss their proposals, and been able to show they could meet all statutory requirements surrounding these proposals, we would have worked to accommodate them alongside other food retailers on the night. However, Broughs did not contact the council in advance to advise us of their intentions.

"The footway directly fronting Broughs premises was left unobstructed as normal and as such Broughs were not prevented from trading. A hot food van was not placed directly in front of their shop, however, there was a gazebo placed in Moor Street alongside other traders, in a position as usually occupied by market stalls on the Thursday and Saturday markets, which fronted their premises.

"As there are limited electric supply points in Moor Street, stall holders had to be kept close together in order for the electricity supply to be available without presenting any trip hazards from uncovered cables."

Some of the 'huge crowds' who the council says enjoyed the Christmas lights switch-on event in Ormskirk town centre

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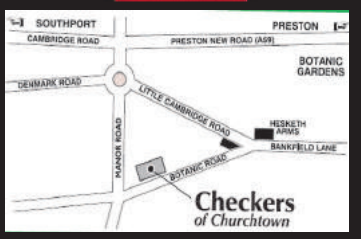

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New Co-op store opens

THE CO-OP has opened its newest food store in Ormskirk following a £500,000 investment creating 16 retail jobs.

Guests of honour at the launch included pupils from Ormskirk Primary School, and representatives of 37th Ormskirk St Anne's Scout Group. Both groups received a donation towards their funds and resources from the Co-op as part of the opening day celebrations.

The new store, located on Wigan Road, offers a fundraising scheme for local causes through its membership scheme. Members receive a 5% reward on the purchase of own-branded products and services, with a further 1% benefiting local good causes.

Right: Manager Gareth McBurney cuts the ribbon at the opening with the help of children from Ormskrk Primary School and 37th Ormskirk (St Anne's) Scouts.

County council to look at £7m cuts

CUTS totalling £7m over the next three years are being considered by Lancashire County Council.

The authority's cabinet are to discuss the proposals tomorrow (Thursday, December 7).

The proposals, which cover plans as diverse as potentially closing some transport information centres, stopping the member grants scheme, and stopping some of the county council's extra sheltered care support, will be presented to cabinet as budget options.

Call for safety measures at busy junction

A MOTHER has called for safety measures including railings and a pedestrian crossing to be installed at a busy junction near to her home after her teenage son was in collision with a car while trying to cross the road.

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Michelle Blair, who lives on Liverpool Road South (the A59) in Burscough says there are frequent accidents and near misses at its junction with Square Lane (the A5209) and believes it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured or even killed.

The 49-year-old made her appeal for safety measures at the spot after her 18-year-old son was involved in a collision with a car at the junction on Thursday, November 23.

The KGV College student believed he had spotted a gap in the traffic when crossing the single carriageway but ran into the car turning on to the road from Square Lane.

Witnesses told Michelle that he hit the car, rolled across the bonnet and then struck his head on the pavement

He was taken to Southport Hospital where he was treated for a flesh wound in his head and concussion. And he later returned to the hospital on the advice of staff at Skelmersdale walk-in centre for a CT scan after having memory lapses.

However, Michelle says he is thankfully on the mend now, although she fears others might not be so fortunate and is calling for safety measures to be implemented.

"It's every parent's worst nightmare when you live next to a busy road that your child will take a chance on crossing.

"I would like to thank everyone who offered help, in particular the kind driver who spotted which house he had come from and came to tell us; the three ladies who called the ambulance and covered him in a blanket and reassured him; and the ambulance crew. The police, Southport Hospital staff and Skelmersdale Walk in Centre staff were all wonderful after the accident too."

Michelle, who works from home, says that just the next day she saw a near miss between a lorry and two pedestrians crossing Square Lane; and she says she often hears the squealing of lorries braking suddenly.

"There is clearly a need for railings, traffic islands or crossings around this junction to protect pedestrians. There are regular accidents and I fear eventually there could be fatalities."

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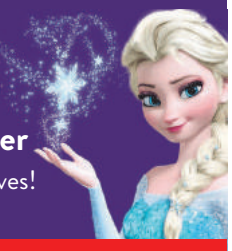

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Defibrillator unveiled in memory of tragic mum Katherine

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A LEARNING technology development officer with Edge Hill University has unveiled a public defibrillator in Ormskirk in memory of his wife who died from a heart attack in May at the age of 35.

Mark Wilcock and his wife, Katherine, who also worked at the university as an administration team leader in the faculty of health and social care, were walking near their home in Crosby when she began to feel unwell.

They went into the nearby Endbutt pub so Mark could get Katherine a glass of water but by the time he returned to their table she had suffered a heart attack.

And despite receiving more than 23 minutes of CPR, she sadly never recovered and passed away after being taken to hospital.

It was later found that she had suffered from Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome, which is commonly only diagnosed after death as it is so hard to detect.

Mark believes that had there been a defibrillator available Katherine would have stood a much better chance of surviving.

Legacy

Since her death, family and friends have rallied round to raise nearly £10,000 to buy four defibrillators to be placed in locations of special significance to the couple - one in Maghull where Katherine grew up; one in Crosby, where the couple lived with their young daughter Margot; one in the Endbutt pub; and one in Ruff Lane, Ormskirk, near the university where they met and worked.

Happier times . . . Mark with Katherine and baby Margot, after graduating from a postgraduate course at Edge Hill University.

The Ormskirk machine is outside Ruff Lane Nursery in an area that is popular with students, near to a taxi rank and local bars.

The defibrillators can be released by a code given by a 999 call handler. Emergency staff will then give guidance over the telephone on how to use them, although they also come with instructions.

Mark said: "The idea behind buying the defibrillators was to try and help prevent anyone else having to go through what I did.

"A lot of Katherine's friends have helped with the fundraising along with members of both our families."

The defibrillators all have an inscription reading in loving memory of Katherine and Mark added: "It's a great legacy for my wife and the locations where they are sited were all prominent in her life. Also there is something for our daughter to see as she grows up."

Civic couple join in festive fun

WEST Lancashire's Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Noel Delaney and Ann Stubbert joined with residents from nearby care homes at the Athena Healthcare Community Hub's Christmas celebrations at the Bull and Dog pub in Burscough.

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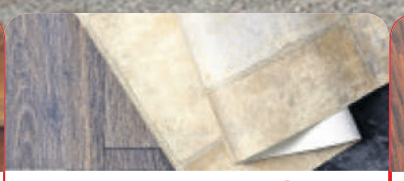

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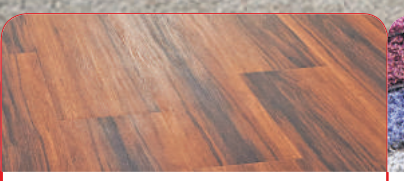

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‘Don’t go from merry to misery’ message

Safety partnership in call for sensible approach to festive season drinking

Report by **Henry James**

Councillor Kevin Wright

DON’T let merry-making turn into misery-making by drinking too much too soon this festive season.

With the party season set to swing into action, that’s the message from the West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership who are advising residents in the borough to think carefully about how much they drink before they go out and to make sure their night lasts.

Councillor Kevin Wright, West Lancs Council’s portfolio holder for community safety, said: “We really hope everyone has an enjoyable time at Christmas, but people need to be aware that excessive drinking can spoil a great night and have serious and even heartbreaking consequences.

“Our message is about encouraging people not to spoil their nights out by overdoing things before they even make it to the pub or club. You end up being ill, and you are more vulnerable to being a victim of crime or involved in an accident which could ruin your festive season.”

Dave Tilleray, chairman of the West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership, added: “When people have too much to drink, they are more likely to lose their friends and possessions, get involved in fights, end up in casualty, or accidentally cause a fire in their home. This can create real problems for those who are left to pick up the pieces such as the police, medical staff, the fire service or even their friends and family.”

The partnership is particularly concerned with the trend called ‘preloading’ - or people drinking to get drunk at home before going out.

Consequences

The trend often leads to revellers becoming very drunk earlier in the night and increased levels of crime and other risky behaviour.

Although many people cite cost as a reason for preloading, the monetary savings can often be far outweighed by the unwanted consequences of drinking too much.

And West Lancashire Police Inspector Adrian Jolly commented: “We want everyone to enjoy themselves this festive season. But the harm that alcohol can do in our communities should not be underestimated.

“Excessive drinking increases your likelihood of committing a crime or becoming a victim of crime.

“We work with other agencies, including licensed premises themselves, to try to keep Lancashire’s residents and visitors safe.”

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Hospital trust first in country to sign up to apprentice charter

SOUTHPORT and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust has become the first organisation in the country to sign up to UNISON's apprenticeship charter.

The charter aims to ensure that apprenticeships deliver a positive outcome for both apprentices and employers.

It commits the trust to provide apprenticeships that are well-funded and lead to a meaningful job. Meanwhile, apprentices will receive the correct rate for the job they are doing, high-quality training, and a safe and healthy working environment.

The signing ceremony took place last week at the corporate management office at Southport Hospital in Town Lane.

Karen Jackson, the hospital trust's interim chief executive, said: "The trust is delighted to be able to support UNISON's charter. Apprenticeships help us develop our staff, opening new doors in their development so together we can best meet patient needs."

And UNISON assistant general secretary, Christina McAnea, added: "We are delighted the trust has decided to sign up our charter, publicly signalling its commitment to structured learning.

"The contribution of apprentices to the workplace is too often overlooked, and unfortunately many young people find themselves exploited, working long hours for low wages, with little support. Yet by properly investing in the workforce of tomorrow, employers can nurture talent and help fill the skills gap - and give a boost to the local economy at the same time.

"It's very welcome that the trust views apprenticeships as an investment in its future workforce, rather than a short-term source of cheap labour. With the number of apprentices set to rise significantly over the next few years, we hope many other employers will soon follow their lead."

Apprentice Simon Bunting (centre) with the charter, flanked by UNISON branch secretary John Flannery and the union's assistant general secretary, Christina McAnea.

And the charter has been welcomed by apprentices too.

Simon Bunting, who is currently undertaking an apprenticeship and is employed as a computer services manager with the trust's pharmacy, said: "I have really valued the opportunity to develop my career through undertaking an apprenticeship at the trust.

"It is hard work, but I have learned a great deal which is already helping me to have a better understanding of leadership and management, enabling me to use this knowledge to become better at my job. It is great that more people will have a chance to undertake a high-quality apprenticeship in the future."

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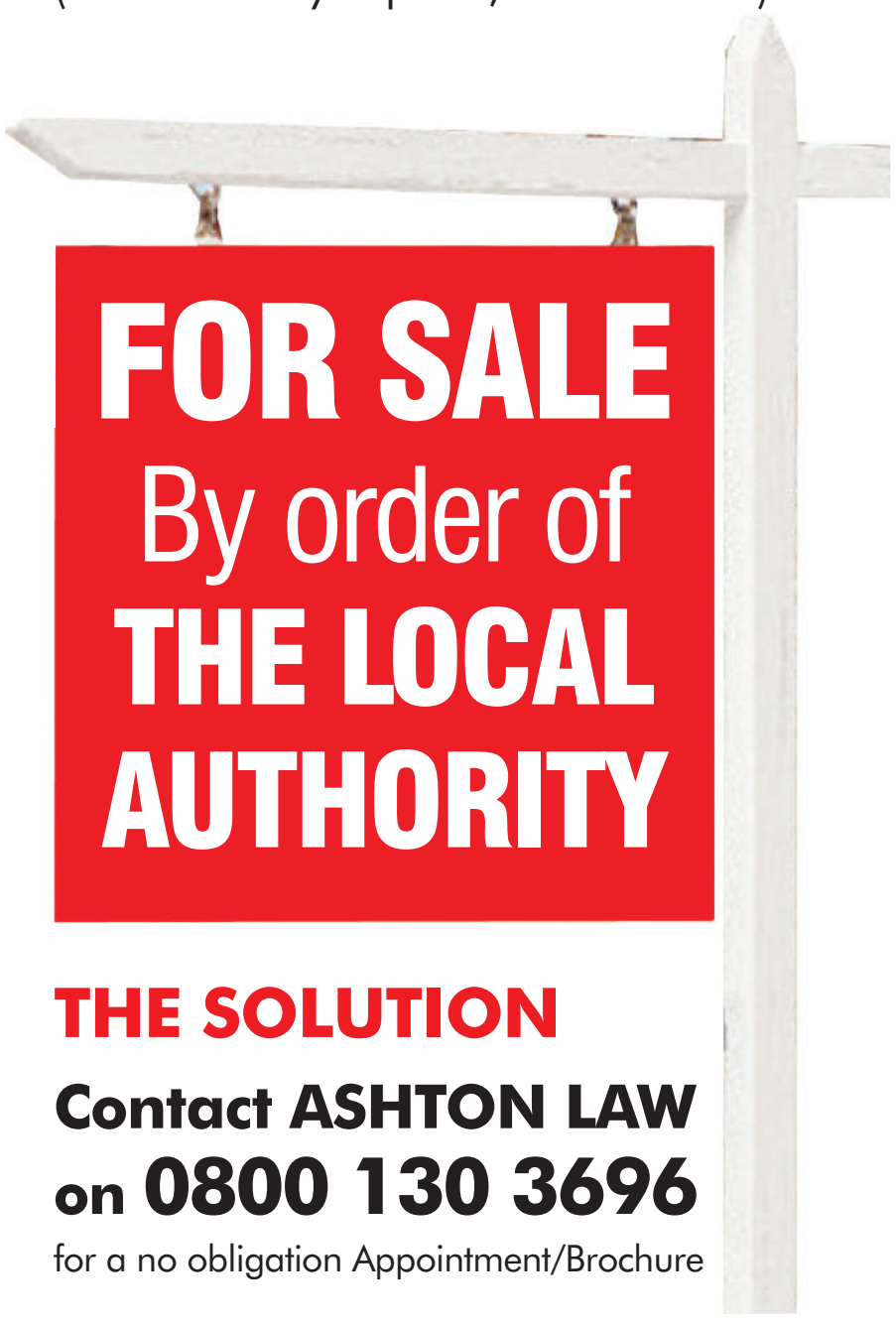

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Fair raises £800 for church

A CHRISTMAS fair in aid of Holy Trinity Church, Bickerstaffe, has raised a grand total of £812.

Held at the village's Four Lane Ends Mission Hall, the event featured food and drink, raffles, cake stalls, a pound stall, games and the chance to meet Father Christmas.

The local Brownies and Guides also had a stall and raffle prizes were donated by local residents as well as Booths, The Rainford Deli, Quattros, G & E Hallsworth, Rainford Salon, Starbucks, Heyes Opticians and the Derby Arms pub.

Music society's Christmas concert

ORMSKIRK Music Society are holding their Christmas concert on Saturday December 16 at St John the Baptist Church in School Lane, Burscough starting at 7.30pm.

The choir and orchestra will be performing the annual mix of festive fare, audience carols and light music treats, plus excerpts from Bizet's L' Arlesienne and Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on Christmas Carols.

There will also be wine and mince pies and tickets, priced £10 and £5 for children, can be purchased in advance from Clare Williams, tel. 07906 129393, or on the door on the night.

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Superintendent Platt and commissioner Clive Grunshaw with the machine gun and some of the other weapons handed in

Machine gun among 100-plus weapons handed in during surrender!

A TWO-week gun surrender run by Lancashire Police as part of a nationwide initiative saw more than 100 firearms and several hundred rounds of ammunition handed in - including a Second World War machine gun and 41 pinfire rounds!

The surrender ran from Monday, November 13 to Sunday, November 26 and also among the haul in the county were 20 shotguns, four rifles, a number of revolvers and pistols and 21 air weapons/ball bearing guns.

Superintendent Julian Platt from Lancashire Constabulary said: "The campaign has shown significant success with members of the public keen to use this opportunity to hand in weapons and work with us to help keep our county safe.

"Not all of the firearms would have had the potential to be used in serious crime, but some would and the pinfire rounds in particular, are highly volatile and would be very dangerous in the wrong hands."

The county's Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, added: "I'm delighted that this campaign to remove dangerous firearms from our streets has been a success.

"There are a number of reasons that people may find themselves with a firearm they should not have, potentially through inheritance or legally owned guns they have no more use for - every single weapon which has been handed in is one which will now not fall into the wrong hands."

Each firearm handed in will now be assessed by firearms officers and the majority destroyed, the exceptions being anything of forensic interest or potential museum pieces.

Supt. Platt concluded: "I would like to thank the media and public for their support during the two-week surrender - our communities really are key to helping us to reduce crime.

"Although the surrender has ended, we'd still welcome information about illegal firearms activity in the county. To that end, I would urge anyone with any information to call us on 101 or to contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Every call is potentially vital to preventing or solving serious crimes - removing an illegally held firearm may just save someone's life."

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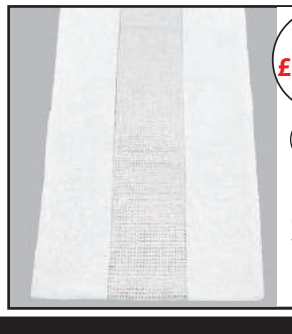

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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Angels really do exist - they came to help us in our darkest hour

HAVING recently borne witness to my father being diagnosed with terminal cancer and then facing the outlook of the inevitable course of events leading up to his death, we, as a family, felt quite alone.

My father's wish was to die in the home that he loved in Tarleton. This was also the wish of his family so that we could care for him and spend as much valuable time with him as possible in his last days.

Although this decision was easy in terms of mutual agreement within the family, it was daunting in respect of worries about our ability to care for dad in our home from both general and medical care perspectives.

My father was a very kind, proud, private and dignified man with strong values, principles and standards. He had spent many years working in the NHS himself, caring for others and always treated his patients with the upmost kindness and respect.

We knew dad's heath would deteriorate and that we would struggle to ensure that his care was of the highest standard. We worried that we would not have the necessary equipment, medicines or training to maintain dad's dignity and ensure he could be as comfortable and content as possible under these most dire circumstances.

At dad's diagnosis we were told that help would be at hand but we didn't really understand how and what sort of help we would get, how often, or when it would arrive.

And then the Angels descended - one after another, after another, after another - without needing to be contacted or prompted. We found ourselves surrounded by caring, loving and gentle Angels who simply appeared and drenched us all with more support and compassion than we could possibly wish for.

The Angels quickly became part of our family. They listened to our concerns and provided advice every step of the way. Although their primary concern was dad, they took the time to listen and talk to us and explain everything that was going on.

They allowed us to continue to care for dad ourselves but did so much more than we would ever have been capable of. Along with dad's care and hygiene, they even helped out around the house, nothing was too much trouble.

Day and night they were constantly available. Quickly responding to our needs, sometimes late at night, or in the early hours, they would arrive with 100% commitment to help. We were simply overwhelmed by the support and care beyond our wildest expectations.

For these reasons I'm compelled to write about these Angels. In these times where the NHS seems to be used as a political football, or to be subject to unfair criticism, I simply can't fault it and the associated organisations for how they have provided the care we have so badly needed.

So who are these Angels? Well, there's too many names to mention but they came from many organisations, all coming together as one comprehensive and complete care organisation.

We simply can't express our gratitude enough but would like to try.

Tarleton District Nurses. Diane Pugh and her team provided a standard of care to both my father and us as a family, which can only be described as exemplary.

KP (Kare Plus). Bernadette King and Louisa Lydiate and their teams provided outstanding 'care-plus', going well above and beyond all expectations throughout.

Queenscourt Hospice and Hospice at Home provided overnight care with compassion and understanding throughout the night, providing my father with continuous care and allowing us to get some much-needed sleep.

As far as we are concerned Angels truly do exist and they came to our assistance at our darkest hour, bringing much-needed light, warmth and smiles into our home. We would never have been able to cope without them. We will never, ever forget. Words are not enough but we hope they go some way to demonstrate our eternal gratitude.

Lee & Doreen Millhouse, Tarleton

PICTURE of the week

A blazing log fire, a visit from Santa and the Tudor surroundings of Rufford Old Hall provided a traditional festive setting for a performance of Christmas carols by pupils from Rufford CofE School. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Shocked by CCG's 'complacency' over cuts to care funding

I WAS shocked by the complacency in the response by the West Lancashire Commissioning Care Group to your article (Champion, November 22) about my niece, Valerie Thompson of Newburgh who has had NHS Continuing Healthcare funding withdrawn.

They defend flawed and arbitrary assessment protocols but let's be clear - they are carrying out a cuts exercise to save £855million from the NHS across Britain as revealed in the National Audit Office report in July on the continuing care budget across Britain.

The Chancellor announced an extra £1.6bn for the NHS in the Budget. If these bureaucrats really were interested in patient care they should be fighting for a slice of that and suspend their cuts to people like Val immediately.

Eight out of 12 members of the Midlands and Lancashire CCG are paid over £100,000 a year. I know where I would make the first cuts to save the NHS!

Colin Brown,
Ex-Deputy Political Editor, The Independent

Do Brexiters need their memories jogging?

WOULD it be helpful if some of our older citizens so excited about Brexit jogged their memory and remembered what the UK economy and living standards looked like in the 1970s before we joined the EU?

The UK gave leadership to the EU, enjoyed enormous economic and political benefits, and opted out when it wanted to (no Schengen or Euro).

The younger generation will have to live with the consequences of Brexit for quite some time. Those asking legitimate questions about Brexit must not be denounced as 'mutineers' or 'Remoaners'. Democracy is based on mutual respect.

As to the post-Brexit future, let us turn to The Honourable John Redwood MP, arch hard-Brexiter. In his recent, well-paid column for the Financial Times (November 3), he advised foreign investors to pull their money out of the UK.

It looks like more and more of them are doing just that. Food for thought?

Realist, by email

If only everyone was like Annie the world would have no more wars

IN 1977 my late father, Dr A. K. Varma, got a job as a family doctor in Ormskirk. He took the train from London to Liverpool Lime Street and then to Ormskirk.

He arrived on a Sunday and was due to live in a bed and breakfast, getting his own lunch and evening meal. That was the arrangement until his family arrived.

At the time I was in the last term of one school and my dad didn't want the disruption. So for a period of three months he was going to be in a bed and breakfast by himself.

However, on turning up at the station a young sweet lady was there. She approached him and said: "Are you the new doctor?"

She knew he was Indian, so it was a bit of a giveaway! He replied that he was.

She told him that he was to live with her, he was not going to be in a bed and breakfast. She'd cook for him and she wouldn't take no for an answer.

She was like his second mother. When dad finished his clinic he'd phone her and let the phone ring three times; she'd get his dinner on and he'd be there in 15 minutes.

Dad never went hungry, nor did he live alone at any stage of his early days as a family doctor in Ormskirk until his wife arrived.

Had she not done this, my late father would have been practically homeless. There is a difference between having a roof over your head and having a home. She gave him a home to live in as opposed to just having a roof over his head.

For obvious reasons she was like a member of the family. She was a devout Christian and she had no problem with the fact that he was the world's most devout Hindu. She used to invite us to take part in the Easter and Christmas celebrations. We used to invite her to Diwali and Holi.

The world needs more like this young lady. If everyone was like her we'd have no wars.

Her name was Annie Griffiths and every time I walk past her grandson's barber shop on Moorgate, Ormskirk I remember her.

Sushant Varma,
Feel Good Centre, Ormskirk

Exiting EU will leave younger generations saddled with debt

I HAVE to chuckle when I read letters like that of Mr Baybutt (Champion, November 22) complaining that the EU is run by un-elected wine-swillers. He must have been very puzzled as to the purpose of the European Elections, last held in 2014.

To explain, that was when we elected Members of the European Parliament to represent us in the running of Europe - people like Mr Nigel Farage MEP, who doesn't believe in the EU but is still happy to pocket the £84,000-a-year salary as an MEP.

Mr Baybutt is right to say that the Stock Market looks buoyant. That's because many FTSE100 companies earn their profits overseas. Now that the pound in our pockets is only worth 80p since the Brexit vote, profits earned in dollars or Euros appear much greater, once converted into the cheap old Pound Sterling.

Unfortunately the UK economy is actually in a very poor state, as the Chancellor admitted in his Budget. It doesn't really affect oldies like Mr Baybutt and myself, as our pensions are protected by the generous 'triple lock', I just feel sad for the younger generations, struggling to get by as their earnings decline in value, and saddled with the massive government debt of £1.6 trillion which we have left for them.

Adrian Tayler,
Tanhouse, Skelmersdale

‘Meeting my attacker helped me move on’

Rape victim says restorative justice was crucial to healing process

Report by **Henry James**

A RAPE victim who met her attacker through a restorative justice programme in Lancashire has told how the process helped her move on with her life.

Speaking anonymously to a conference of police and criminal justice professionals, hosted by Lancashire Police and the county’s Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, she said that meeting her attacker had been crucial to her recovery.

Mr Grunshaw, praised the woman’s courage in speaking out as he opened the conference highlighting the services available and how it can help people in complex cases.

He said: “Restorative justice can be a really important process giving victims a chance to get answers following a crime and often giving them a way to move on with their lives.

“The team at Lancashire Police and Lancashire Victim Services can offer the advice and support people need to take this difficult but often important step.

“The process can also give offenders the chance to face up to what they have done, understand how their crimes have affected people and reform as a result.

“I am confident this is a positive step towards making our communities better, safer places to live, and to giving victims of crime and anti-social behaviour a real voice.”

Pictured at the conference are Peter Woolf; Helena Cryer, restorative justice manager, Lancashire Constabulary; Clive Grunshaw; and Chief Superintendent Matt Horn

One speaker at the conference was a victim of a serious sexual assault who met her attacker through the restorative justice programme.

She said: “Meeting him was crucial in my recovery, hearing him say sorry to me face-to-face.

“Every time I got an answer to the questions I felt relief, and a lot of fear and anxiety that I had carried with me - that I did not fully realise I had - lifted.

“I would encourage others to look for help through restorative justice. It has a really powerful effect on your life even knowing that there is an option to utilise it as part of the healing process.”

Helena Cryer, restorative justice manager at Lancashire Constabulary, said: “Restorative justice is becoming more recognised as a way of giving victims a voice, allowing them to find the closure they need to move on from being labelled as a victim of crime.”

Lancashire’s restorative justice team received a special mention in this year's Howard League Community Awards and were praised for the services and awareness raised around restorative approaches across Lancashire.

Restorative justice is being used for a wide range of incidents and crimes from low level anti-social behaviour to more serious and complex cases.

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Bid to get community involved in council services

WEST Lancs councillors are looking into ways that community groups can become more closely involved in the delivery of the authority's services.

As part of its work programme for 2017/18, the council's corporate and environmental overview and scrutiny committee has agreed to undertake a review entitled 'Community Involvement in Service Delivery.'

The decision was taken after committee members asked the public to submit topic suggestions for consideration for inclusion in the programme.

The committee will then forward appropriate recommendations to the cabinet and council which can influence future decisions on policy and important decisions the authority may make.

Although not all of the suggestions submitted could be taken forward, the committee want to thank everyone who submitted ideas.

The council has said that the merits of each idea were considered "very carefully" and it was recommended the committee should look at how community groups may be able to get involved in service delivery in their locality.

The project is expected to take around 10 months to complete.

Councillor Nikki Hennessy, chairman of the corporate and environmental overview and scrutiny committee, said: "Here in West Lancashire, we know through our parish councils and voluntary bodies how very resourceful community groups are.

"We already have many examples of community groups taking on community centres, playing fields and meeting rooms.

"The committee will look at opportunities to enable more community-led activities and management of local services to take place and at the end of the process, it is hoped, come up with some recommendations to assist community groups to take up those opportunities."

The current condition of Parbold dry dock

More volunteers needed to join heritage group dry docks project

Report by **Lottie Gibbons**

MEMBERS of a community campaign set up by Parbold and Burscough Heritage Group, to restore Parbold and Lathom dry docks, are appealing for more volunteers to join the project.

The main aims of the campaign are to remove overgrown vegetation, upgrade footpaths and clean up the surrounding areas.

And the group also want to add historical and heritage information, near to the docks, so visitors can understand their significance.

Mike Allen, from the Lathom campaign, said: "Once the project is complete, more visitors will be brought into both villages, benefiting the community."

Both dry docks have a valuable place in local history.

Lathom's dry dock is a Grade II listed structure within a local conservation area under English Heritage.

And the dry dock at Parbold, while not a listed structure, marks an unusual part of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, as originally, the planned construction route never intended for the dry dock to be built.

The group would like more volunteers to help with tasks ranging from raising awareness to maintaining the appearance of the dock.

If you would like to be involved, become a member of the heritage group or for more information, email parbolddrydock@yahoo.com.

A well-kept Parbold dry dock in 1994. Photo Courtesy of Canal & River Trust.

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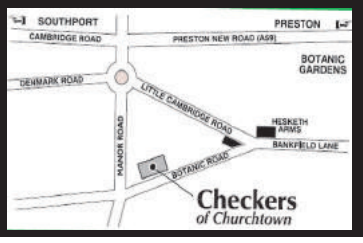

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Still time to sign up for hospice Santa Sprint

THERE is still time to sign for the annual Queenscourt Hospice Santa Sprint set to take place on Sunday, December 10.

Open to everyone - young, old, whole families and even pets! - the 2k event raises funds for the Southport-based hospice which provides specialist palliative care services free of charge to patients from the West Lancashire area as well as Southport and Formby.

Queenscourt has teamed up with the Silcock Leisure Group for this year's event, which will start at Southport Pier at 11am.

The hospice relies entirely on donations to fund its services which cost around £3 million annually to run.

A spokesperson for Queenscourt said: "Last year generous participants raised a staggering amount of just over £12.5k.

"We aim to help patients be cared for where they want to be, which is normally at home, and last year's Santa Sprint provided specialist nursing care for a night in their own home for 50 patients.

Circular route

"Whether you are a seasoned Santa sprinter or a first-time participant, we look forward to welcoming you.

"The run all starts at Southport Pier next to Silcock's Carousel and follows a circular 2k route around the Southport seafront."

Entry is £10 per adult, £7 for under-16s and £30 for a family of two adults and two under-16s.

Everyone taking part will receive their Santa Suit, a special Queenscourt medal and complimentary hot drink.

For more information about to sign up, how to donate or how to volunteer, visit queenscourt.org.uk/santasprint or call 01704 517420.

Silcock's Santas, Anthony and Justin, with Queenscourt's Jane and Carolyn, added a £500 boost to last year's Santa Sprint funds.

County council's older peoples services achieve excellence award

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE County Council's services for older people have again achieved the Customer Service Excellence standard.

The older people's service runs 18 residential homes, 13 day centres, care navigation services and other adult support services. They were awarded the certificate following two inspections.

Customer Service Excellence tests areas that research has indicated are a priority for customers, including standards of service delivery, timeliness, information, professionalism and staff attitude.

County Councillor Graham Gooch, Lancashire's cabinet member for adult services, said: "It's great that our older people's services have once again achieved the Customer Service Excellence certificate.

"This quality mark shows everyone that we are continuing to improve standards and putting the people who use our services, and their families or carers, at the heart of everything we do."

Inspectors highlighted many good practices including:

• Strong leadership with good systems ensuring staff are aware of customers' requirements.

• Providing specific activity programmes based on people's needs, including using items such as memory boxes to support people who have dementia.

• Using Wi-Fi to give people easy access to the internet.

County Councillor Graham Gooch

• Providing more opportunities for people who use services and their families to have their say.

• Staff going the extra mile, including setting up Skype so one resident could watch her granddaughter's wedding abroad.

Cllr. Gooch added: "The inspectors picked up on a number of points during their visit. These included good leadership and excellent systems that improved efficiency, ensuring staff can spend more time with people they support.

"I was particularly pleased that they highlighted staff going above and beyond to help people, including using the latest technology to help a care home resident to be part of her granddaughter's wedding abroad.

"Staff are doing a tremendous job and the Customer Service Excellence standard shows that their hard work is paying off."

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Mental health team's tips for a stress-free festive season

MENTAL health professionals at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust's Mindsmatter team are encouraging residents in the county to avoid unnecessary stress during the festive period by following 12 simple steps.

Kieran Fleck, Mindsmatter psychological wellbeing practitioner lead at the trust, said: "While the festive season is great for bringing together family and friends, the preparation, financial pressure and family tensions can often bring added and unnecessary stress for people.

"We are encouraging people to do good deeds or small acts of kindness to make themselves feel better and maintain a positive mind set.

"Nobody should suffer alone. We have Mindsmatter teams across Lancashire to support anyone who is feeling low or stressed out this Christmas."

The Mindsmatter team has also put together some top tips to help people remain well this Christmas.

- Do something different that you wouldn't normally do. Break the usual routines and comforts.
- Find and cook a new recipe. Look for healthy ideas online, buy the ingredients and cook it for yourself or your family.
- Go for a walk in the park.
- Buy something at your local charity shop, a Christmas present or an extra gift for a loved one.
- Spend 15 minutes doing some mindful practice, try mindful observation or breathing. These techniques can really help reduce worry and stress.
- Buy a range of fruit for the week. Try to eat five pieces of fruit in total each day.
- Pick up an audio CD or podcast on a novel or subject you're interested in. Listen in the car or in bed.
- Close the curtains, put some music on loud and dance while no one's watching. It's fun, silly and enjoyable.
- Watch a DVD/video of stand-up comedy. Have a good giggle to yourself or with friends and family.
- Focus on fixing or cleaning those things you keep avoiding – something small and achievable.
- Try and reduce the amount of harmful things you may be in a habit of having - drink fewer cups of tea or coffee or reduce your alcohol intake. This can help start new healthy habits and aid things like sleep at night.
- Complete a jigsaw or colouring book, maybe with others. They are fun, relaxing and you can feel that sense of achievement afterwards.

You can access the Mindsmatter service via online referral form at the website www.lancashire-care.nhs.uk/Mindsmatter, by post, telephone; or by visiting your GP.

People in West Lancashire can contact their local Mindsmatter service on 01695 684177.

Union project aims to raise awareness of barriers faced by disabled students

EDGE Hill Students' Union has launched Disability History Month 2017 to raise awareness of disabled students' struggles for equality and human rights.

The theme of this year's celebration is the History of Disability and Art, and the month sees a number of events taking place around the Ormskirk campus.

Disabled students' officer at the union, Kathryn Pidcock, said: "I was five years old when I got diagnosed with dyslexia and dyspraxia but luckily for me my parents helped me every day to strive further and beat any barriers set for me.

"And by pushing myself I have managed to attend university and am even studying for my Masters. At a time when our benefits are being slashed and disability hate crime is on the increase we should be doing everything we can to stand in solidarity with all disabled people for a fair and just society."

The union have teamed up with other groups in the university to run activities encouraging students to think about disabled students' struggles and ways in which everyone can all help to break down barriers, including sign language classes, films and literature showcases, dance workshops, speaker sessions and flashmobs.

Edge Hill University students' union officials Rosie McKenna and Kathryn Pidcock are aiming to raise awareness of disabled students' struggles for equality.

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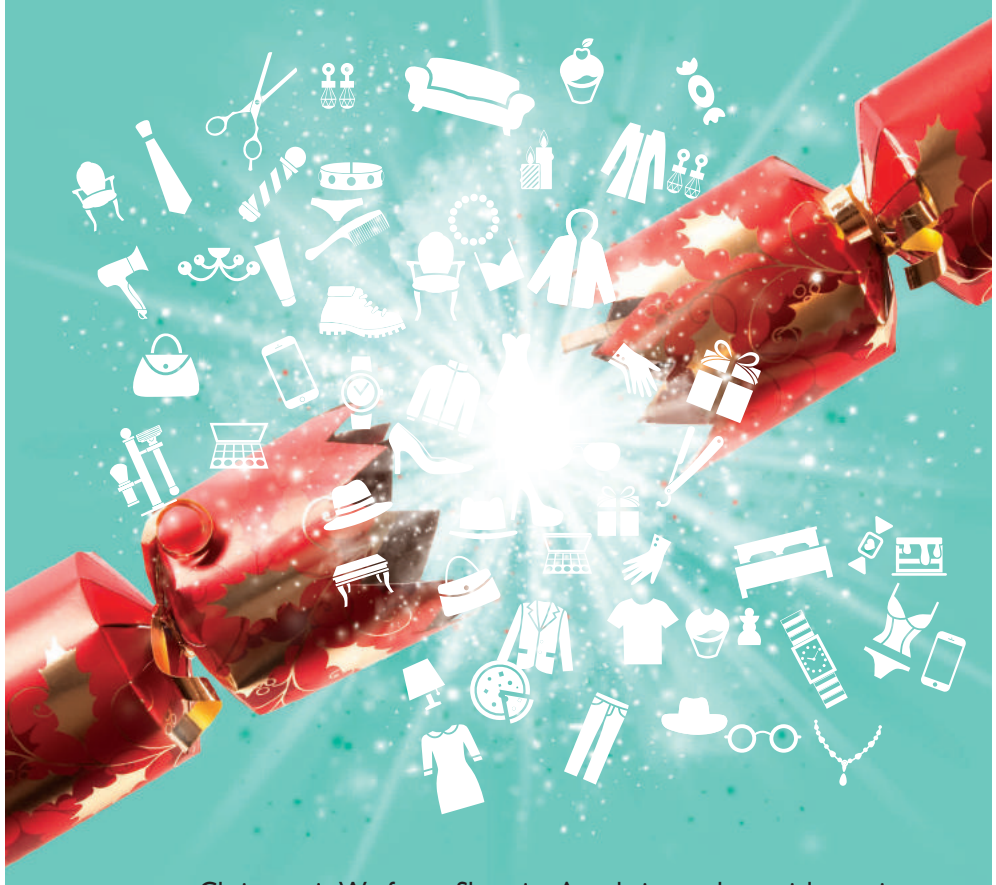

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IT'S almost impossible to write about our Brexit negotiations for a weekly column such as this as one stupidity follows another so frequently that one is bound to be left behind.

But one topic that has always puzzled me rather is this vexed question of how much we should pay our so-called European Friends to leave their ghastly club.

Why do we sit back and hear continuously that the hold-up is of our own making because we will not tell them how much we are expected to cough up? Forgive me, but I would have imagined that it is the organisation one is leaving that should present you with the bill for whatever it considers you owe - not for us to say what we would like to pay (which obviously would be nothing).

If the EU bureaucrats had simply set out what they considered our debts are to them (though perhaps a case could be made the other way round) then we could agree, or set out why we should not be liable for specific sums.

That way, everybody would know where they are playing, and by now we would know whether it was worthwhile continuing the negotiations at all.

I understand that a committee of our own House of Lords has in fact issued a report claiming that legally we have no need to pay the EU anything at all - but for some reasons neither our own timid Government, nor most of our national media, has seen fit to make much if anything of this.

Quite seriously, if you decided to leave your golf club because the fees were too high it would be morally, if not legally, right perhaps to pay your subs up to the end of the year. But if the club then said they wanted extra because you had said you would next year ask for your son or daughter to be given golfing lessons from the pro - and now obviously would not - you would tell them to take a running jump, not pay up just to get them off your back.

Why on earth should it always be us who are expected to back down? The Eurocrats know full well that for us to leave without a sensible trade agreement would hurt us, yes - but I believe it would hurt them even harder.

I wonder if there would have been quite the same kind of furore if, say, Greece had decided that they wanted to leave. Certainly there would be no chance of extracting £50 million from them. Perhaps they might have even been given a few million Drachmas to help them on their way?

Anyhow, enough of that for now.

On perhaps a lighter note, on re-reading last week's column about Political Correctness, I was reminded of my days working in Colchester and a very good friend of mine there who originated in Ireland and from time to time flew back to visit his family.

When he returned he invariably brought me a packet or two of Wills Gold Flake cigarettes - along with the latest crop of 'English Jokes'!

I enjoyed both - and in retrospect it was certainly the jokes which did me least harm!

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Lancashire Day celebrated around the world

LANCASHIRE Day 2017 was celebrated around the world, according to figures released by Marketing Lancashire.

The organisation, which aims to promote the county nationally and internationally, led a campaign to get Lancashire Day trending on Twitter with the hashtag#LancashireDay, inviting the public to share what they think is 'grand' about the county.

And they say it reached 74 million people on social media, beating last year's record of 60 million.

In addition, a range of events celebrating Lancashire culture and heritage took place in libraries, visitor information centres and attractions across the county, along with live readings of the Lancashire Day proclamation, pledging allegiance to Her Majesty The Queen, The Duke of Lancaster.

Lancashire Day, celebrated on November 27, was established 21years ago by the Friends of Real Lancashire to mark the day in 1295 when the first elected representatives from the county were summoned to Westminster by King Edward I, to be part of what later became known as 'the model parliament.'

Ruth Connor, chief executive at Marketing Lancashire, said: "We are delighted that so many people engaged with #LancashireDay. It is our privilege to promote Lancashire every day of the year and we're always thrilled to hear what the county means to the people who live, work or study here, as well as from those who might be far away but thinking of home especially on Lancashire Day."

WEST Lancashire celebrated Lancashire Day 2017 in time-honoured fashion with town crier, Don Evans reading the proclamation at Ormskirk Clock Tower, accompanied by the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Noel Delaney and Ann Stubbert

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Age UK's 'help us to beat loneliness this Christmas' appeal

Charity calls for support for campaign to tackle older people's festive season isolation

NEW research for Age UK shows that more than 130,000 older people in the North West feel lonelier at Christmas time.

Alongside the findings, published to launch its Christmas campaign, 'No one should have no one', the charity has produced a short film entitled *Just another day*, which shines a light on the chronic loneliness which 1.2 million older people are living with in England.

The film shows the everyday monotony of a lonely widower for whom each day is much like the last, and even Christmas is no exception.

Nearly half of the older people in the North West surveyed for Age UK - more than 620,000 people aged 65 and over - feel their days can be repetitive. The charity estimates that more than 105,000 people aged 65 and over in the North West don't see or hear from someone for days on end over the festive period.

Through its campaign, Age UK is calling on people to pledge their support and donate to help the charity be there for older people and tackle the loneliness that is blighting too many lives.

Age UK does this every day of the year through its vital services like Age UK Advice, open every day, including Christmas Day; and Call in Time, the charity's telephone befriending service, which provides regular calls to isolated or lonely older people.

Roy, an 85-year-old widower experienced loneliness after his wife of 55 years passed away. He said: "No one teaches you about loneliness and until it happens to you, you don't realise just how devastating it is.

Research for Age UK has found that more than 130,000 older people in the North West will feel lonelier this Christmas time.

"I'm incredibly grateful for Age UK's befriending service and my local Age UK. Anybody who is feeling lonely and missing their loved ones this Christmas should sign up for this service - it's a lifeline."

Left unaddressed loneliness can cause long-term misery and contribute to the development of serious medical conditions, such as heart problems and strokes, mental health issues and dementia.

Caroline Abrahams, charity director at Age UK, says: "Loneliness doesn't only affect older people over the Christmas period, but because most of us expect to spend this time enjoying ourselves with family and friends it can make those who are on their own feel all the more left out and miserable.

"Chronic loneliness can also have a devastating impact on an older person's mental and physical health.

"There is something we can all do to make a positive difference to the older people around us. Having a friendly chat with an older person on the bus or in a shop, or offering to help an elderly neighbour with their shopping if the weather is bad, can do more good than most of us would ever guess."

Anyone who is experiencing feelings of loneliness or is worried about an older relative or friend can call Age UK Advice free on 0800 169 6565, visit www.ageuk.org.uk/no-one or contact their local Age UK.

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Sanctuary's final fundraiser of year

STAFF at a West Lancashire animal charity are hoping for a much-needed financial boost when they stage their final fundraiser of the year.

Woodlands Animals Sanctuary in Sandy Lane, Holmeswood, cares for a wide variety of small, domestic and farm animals, relying entirely on donations and sponsorship for funding.

And with more than 350 animals on site at any one time it needs £3,000 each week to stay up and running.

The annual Winter Market on Sunday, December 17 will be the sanctuary's final fundraiser of 2017 running from 11am to 3pm and featuring family-friendly entertainment including Santa and his elves, a variety of stalls selling various handmade items and tours of the centre to see all of their 'residents'.

Sally McDerby from Woodlands, said: "Visitors will be able to get to see all of our resident animals and we have a lot of festive entertainment - not to mention the tasty winter treats available too. This will be our last on site fundraiser of the year and we are hoping for lots of support on the day to help provide the vital funds we need to get us through what can be an expensive time of the year."

Last chance to have a say on open spaces policy

THERE is still time - just! - for West Lancashire residents to have their say on an important new study by the borough council regarding outdoor places where people enjoy spending their leisure time.

The Open Space Study will audit existing places in West Lancashire such as parks, recreation grounds, allotments, nature sites and play areas.

It will consider the supply of and future demand for open leisure spaces in the borough and form an important piece of evidence for the emerging West Lancashire Local Plan by identifying future priorities for open space.

An important part of the study will be to obtain the views of residents and local interest groups in relation to the quantity and quality of open spaces, accessibility to them and what improvements should be made.

Councillor John Hodson

An online survey has been produced in order to gather these views which is available for completion via the council's website and can be found at www.westlancs.gov.uk/consultation.

There is also a shorter online survey for children of primary school age.

The closing date for people to respond to both surveys has been extended to Friday, December 8.

Findings from the audit and the online survey will be used to produce a report which assesses open leisure spaces in the area, identifies standards of provision and make recommendations for the future. The study is expected to be completed by March 2018.

Councillor John Hodson, the council's portfolio holder for planning, said: "This is an important study for West Lancashire and I would urge local people to get involved by giving their views. We have had a number of responses to our consultation but we want as many people as possible to respond to give people a clear indication of what local people think."

For further details contact the council's Strategic Planning and Implementation Team by calling 01695 585393 or emailing local-plan@westlancs.gov.uk.

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Grants offer to groups promoting energy efficiency

ENERGY company E.ON is offering grants to charities and community groups looking to become more energy-efficient or helping others to be so.

Eligible groups in Lancashire are invited to apply for up to £2,000 of funding through the E.ON Energising Communities Fund, available for the second time this year.

To be eligible for funding organisations must submit a request which supports activities that help bring about a reduction in their own energy use, help generate energy from a renewable source, or provide energy efficiency advice for local people.

Applicants are encouraged to get their funding requests in now, ahead of the application deadline of Monday, January 29. Groups can apply for funding to cover the full or partial cost of energy-related improvements and activities.

Suzanne Doxey, community relations manager at E.ON, said: "We're excited to be offering our Energising Communities Fund for the second time this year to give more local community groups and charities the opportunity to apply for funding.

"At E.ON we understand that heating bills can account for a large part of the running costs for a community group or charity and so their need to become energy-efficient and save on costs is really important.

"With our Energising Community Fund we're able to support community groups and charities who would like to become more sustainable but don't necessarily have the available funds to be able to progress with their plans.

"Since launching our fund in 2013, we've distributed over £140,000 to almost 85 community groups nationwide to fund energy-related projects and it's been great to hear the benefits that the funding has had, not only on the groups and charities themselves, but the wider community who use the facilities.

"We look forward to receiving the applications and supporting more successful community groups."

For full terms and conditions of the E.ON Energising Communities Fund and to access the application form, go to eonenergy.com/community.

Take a visit to One Magical City!

The Champion did... and discovered festive delights galore

CHRISTMAS is a magical time, so where better to spend a couple of days in the run-up to the big day than in one magical city.

It's Liverpool, of course, where this year festive offerings galore will surely put you under its spell.

The allure of this great maritime city is special at any time of the year but when the 'pool puts on its winter coat and gears up for Christmas, the city has an even more, yes, magical aura.

Liverpool is simply sparkling with yuletide merriment right now.

There's no shortage of great hotels to stay in Liverpool - the four-star Pullman Hotel being one of them. Opened just two years ago the Pullman is in an enviable location at the Kings Dock, Monarch's Quay. It was built to complement the impressive and huge exhibition centre which is literally right next door and opposite the equally impressive arena and conference centre. The hotel is also home to Marco Pierre White's latest Liverpool food offering 'Wheeler's of St James's'.

The Pullman sits just a short stroll from the Albert Dock and its many attractions, two of which are the Beatles Story and Tate Liverpool.

And while it may be Christmas outside, a trip to both are welcome distractions from the many wonderful festive feasts that await visitors to the city.

The award-winning Beatles Story is the world's largest permanent exhibition purely devoted to the lives and times of The Fab Four and takes visitors on an atmospheric journey through the lives, times, culture and music of The Beatles.

Tate Liverpool is a magnet for culture vultures and on display right now until June next year is an exhibition of the work of one of the most important figures of the pop art movement - Roy Lichtenstein. Also on at present, until March 2018, is an exhibition of the work of John Piper and his contribution to modern art in Britain.

Review: One Magical City

All that culture can make you hungry but Liverpool boasts lots of wonderful places to wine and dine. Try lunch at Viva Brazil on Castle Street; or how about dinner at Pan Am? Pan Am is a contemporary bar and restaurant, located in the Grade 1 listed Britannia Pavilion on the Albert Dock with fabulous views towards Liverpool's Three Graces.

While back at the Pullman, Marco Pierre White's new restaurant, credited with being the 'world's oldest and finest fish brand' but with a variety of meat and vegetarian dishes to appeal to all tastes is definitely worth venturing to.

Fancy afternoon tea to rest those weary legs as you go about your Christmas shopping? Then the recently opened Patisserie Valerie inside Debenhams at Liverpool One could be just the treat.

One Magical City aims to attract Christmas shoppers to Liverpool and there's no shortage of festive things to do.

Liverpool One is a top destination all year round but takes on an even more special appeal when it puts on its Christmas glitter. But all that gift gathering can give you a thirst. Not to worry, satisfy it with a seasonal cocktail or a festive tipple or two at Bar Hutte which is beneath the UK's biggest Christmas tree at Liverpool One.

Or, if you want to take a little time out from all that festive shopping, then why not allow yourself a little 'you' time and head for Harvey Nichol's Beauty Bazaar in Liverpool One where you can treat yourself to a special pamper session and banish any of those winter blues you may be feeling.

Liverpool is a festive delight this Christmas and really does live up to its One Magical City billing. There's even a brilliant Ice Festival at the Pier Head complete with huge ice slide, ice bar, rides and a Christmas market.

And you can get your skates on at the huge covered ice rink with the stunning Three Graces as a backdrop - how's that for magic!

The Pullman Hotel on Kings Dock, Liverpool

The Beatles Story on Albert Dock

Choir hits all the right notes to raise funds for charity

AS PART of its tenth anniversary celebrations, ReSound Community Choir has raised money for Galloway's Society for the Blind.

The choir, which meets in Scarisbrick, is a registered charity composed of a broad mix of people, from professional musicians to people who just enjoy singing as a hobby, young and old.

Causes

From its founding it has had two aims - to enhance the community through the enjoyment of meeting to sing, and to raise money for local charities by giving performances.

To celebrate its ten years of meeting together, and 'to give something back' after receiving lots of grants and donations over the ten years, the choir have been supporting ten different causes, one of which is Galloway's which was presented with a cheque for £600.

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Representatives from Woodlands with the cheque which they received from the Co-op

Early Christmas bonus for local charities

GOOD causes across the North West, including West Lancashire, received an early Christmas present, when the Co-op revealed a £52,000 funding boost to charities in the area.

The money will be shared by 19 organisations, all of whom are making a real difference to communities throughout the region.

These include Disability Advice West Lancs (£2,000), which is based in Skelmersdale and Woodlands Animal Sanctuary in Holmeswood (£1,905).

Amazing

This is the latest round of pay-outs from the community fund and brings the amount the Co-op has invested in good causes in the area since the scheme launched in September 2016 to £98,000.

According to the latest figures from the Charities Commission just under 40 per cent of all charities have an income of less than £10,000. Therefore, the £2,750 average pay out will be a significant boost to funds for the 4,000 organisations that are receiving a payment from the Co-op.

Rufus Olins, director of community and campaigns at the Co-op, said: "It's great to be delivering an early Christmas present to those communities and individuals that need it most.

"Since the scheme launched Co-op members have helped to raise an amazing £20 million for 8,000 local causes nationally, but we want to do more, so the more people shop, the more good causes can earn.

"However, this is not just about giving money, it is about developing relationships with good causes in local communities, and over the past year we have been touched by hundreds of ways in which people have made their own communities better places to be."

Coroner's areas merged

THE coroner areas of Preston and West Lancashire, East Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen have been formally merged.

Known as Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen, the new jurisdiction will be led by Dr James Adeley as the senior coroner and supported by Richard Taylor and James Newman as area coroners. It will deal with approximately 4,500 deaths per year.

Dr Adeley said: "The amalgamation of three significant coroner's jurisdictions provides substantial opportunities to improve the service to bereaved families."

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FESTIVE RECIPES

Something to start and something sweet

Starter One

CHESTNUT VELOUTE (pronounce Ve-lou-tay)

Ingredients: (for 4 and doubles easily)
500 to 600g of peeled chestnuts
500 ml of full fat milk
500 ml water
2 onions, chopped
1 chicken or vegetable stock cube
15 grams of butter
Seasoning
How to:
Cook the onions in the butter in a large saucepan for about five minutes.
Add the chestnuts and cook for 3 minutes, moving them often so they don't burn.
Add the milk and water with the cube. As soon as it gets to the boil, turn down and simmer gently for 20 minutes.
Remove about 6 chestnuts and chop them in small pieces for serving.
Whizz the soup together using a blender. Season.
You can then cool the soup for later at this stage. When reheating, do NOT boil, just make sure it is piping hot and serve immediately with a scattering of chestnuts pieces.

Adapted from 'Cuisine bistrot a la maison'

Starter Two

SMOKED SALMON PATE

Ingredients: (for 6, easily doubled)
255g smoked salmon
110g cream cheese
2 tbsp double cream
½ lemon, juice only
2 tbsp chopped chives (plus some to sprinkle on top)
pinch of sugar
salt and freshly ground pepper
How to:
Pop all the ingredients into a blender and pulse until it has a consistency that you desire. Plenty of pepper is good but go easy on the salt, as the smoked salmon will be salty already. You can substitute lime and coriander instead of lemon and chives.
Serve with good crackers or hot toast if you feel so inclined

www.bbc.co.uk

Dessert One

MONT BLANC DESSERT

Ingredients:
150g good-quality dark chocolate
650 ml double cream
2½ ready-made meringue nests
675g sweetened chestnut purée, from a can
How to:
Place the chocolate into the bowl of a food processor and blend until it forms large, broken grains. Divide the chocolate equally among the eight glasses.
Place the cream in a large bowl and lightly whip it until soft peaks form when the whisk is removed. Crumble one-and-a-half meringues into the mixture and mix well.
Spread the chestnut purée on top of the chocolate in the glasses.
Spoon the cream and meringue mixture into the glasses on top of the chestnut purée.
To serve, crumble the remaining meringue over the top of the cream and meringue mixture. Assemble the Mont Blancs just before serving to retain the crunchiness of the meringue

Original recipe by Nigella Lawson
www.neelscorner.com

Dessert Two

STICKY TOFFEE PEAR PUDDING

Ingredients:
8 small firm pears (Conference is good)
200g golden caster sugar
2 cinnamon sticks
1 star anise
6 cloves
1 lemon, zest pared
1 orange, zest pared
ice cream, to serve (optional)
For the sponge
250g pitted dates
2 tbsp linseeds
300ml unsweetened almond milk
200ml vegetable oil, plus extra for greasing
175g dark muscovado sugar
200g self-raising flour
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 tsp ground mixed spice

How to:
1. Peel the pears and cut the bottom off each to give a flat base – cut them to a height that will fit snugly in your tin. Use a melon baller or small knife to cut out the pips from the base. Roughly chop the pear scraps, discarding the pips, and set aside. Tip the sugar, cinnamon, star anise, cloves, zests and 600ml water into a saucepan large enough to fit all the pears. Bring to the boil, then simmer until the sugar has dissolved. Add the pears, cover with a lid or a piece of baking parchment, and poach gently for 15 mins until a knife easily slides into a pear. Leave to cool in the liquid.
2. Now make the sponge. Put the dates and linseeds in a saucepan and add the almond milk. Bring to a gentle simmer, then cook for 2-3 mins until the dates are soft. Pour into a food processor and blitz until smooth. Add the oil and blend again, then scrape into a bowl and set aside to cool a little. Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Grease and line a 20 x 30cm baking tin (a loose -bottomed one if possible) with a strip of baking parchment.
3. Put the dry ingredients in a large mixing bowl with 1/2 tsp salt. Mix well, breaking up any lumps of sugar with your fingers, and shaking the bowl a few times to encourage any remaining lumps to come to the surface. Add the date and oil mixture, and stir well. Fold in the chopped pear scraps. Scrape the cake mixture into the tin, then nestle in the pears, standing straight up, so that the bottom halves are covered. Bake for 35-40 mins until the cake is cooked through. Insert a skewer to the centre to check – it should come out clean. If there is any wet cake mixture on the skewer, return the cake to the oven and bake for 10 mins more, then check again.
4. Meanwhile, bring the pear poaching liquid back to the boil and simmer until reduced to a glossy syrup. When the pudding is cooked, cool for 5-10 mins, then brush all over with the syrup, saving a little extra to serve alongside.

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Ahead of Yourself

SPROUTS AND CHESTNUTS

Ingredients:
(can be doubled easily)
500g of fresh sprouts,
1 chopped onion
200g of vacuum peeled chesnuts (available from most supermarkets)
50g of butter
teaspoon of dried thyme Seasoning

How to:
Make this a couple of days ahead. Clean the sprouts by chopping a little slice of their bottom and removing yellowing leaves, then parboil them in a large pan of salted water (about 10 or so minutes). Drain, cool a few minutes.
In a large frying pan, melt the butter and fry the onion for 5 minutes then all the other ingredients . Cook rapidly for about 10 or so minutes or until the sprouts are tender. Once off the heat, sprinkle thyme and seasoning, cool and seal well. On the day, reheat gently on the hob.

Image from www.deliaonline.com

CRANBERRY SAUCE

Better made a few days ahead for maximum flavour

Ingredients:
100g of light brown sugar
100ml of fresh orange juice
250g of fresh or frozen cranberries
grated zest of a small clementine

How to:
Combine the sugar and orange juice in a large saucepan and bring to the boil.
Stir in the cranberries and clementine zest (if using), then simmer until the cranberries are tender but still holding their shape – this will take about 5 minutes if using frozen cranberries and a little longer if using fresh.
Refrigerate until needed, the sauce will thicken as it cools.
Remove from the fridge an hour before serving.

www.bbc.co.uk/food

HONEYED PARSNIPS/CARROTS

Prepare vegetables a day ahead and cook on the day

Ingredients:
3 tbsp sunflower oil
1kg parsnips or half parsnips and half carrots
4 tablespoons of honey

How to:
Peel the vegetables and cut, depending on their size, lengthways in half or quarters to form even-sized pieces. If preparing ahead, place pieces in a sealed bag and the fridge until you need them.
Preheat the oven to 200°C, gas mark 6. Place the oil in a roasting tin and heat in the oven.
Meanwhile, carefully place the vegetables into the hot oil, and turn to coat. Roast for 30-45 minutes, until golden, turning halfway through.
Then drizzle honey all over and cook for 10 more minutes until golden and sticky.

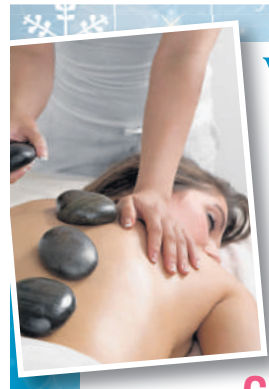
Adapted from www.waitrose.com
Image from goodtoknow.media.ipcdigital.co.uk

WHITE/ BRANDY SAUCE

Can be made a couple of days ahead

Ingredients:
30g butter
20g cornflour
300ml milk
50g of caster sugar
A drop of vanilla essence
75 ml of brandy (optional)

How to:
1. Melt the butter or margarine into a saucepan. Remove from heat and blend in the cornflour.
2. Stir in the milk gradually, and add the sugar.
3. Bring to the boil and simmer for 2 to 3 minutes, stirring constantly. At this stage cool and fridge. On the day, add the brandy if required and warm gently.
DO NOT LET IT BOIL



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FESTIVE RECIPES

Are you looking at my bird?

ROAST TURKEY WITH LEMON AND GARLIC

Ingredients:
5-6kg oven-ready turkey, neck and giblets removed and kept for the gravy
1 onion, halved
1 lemon halved (save the zest for the butter)
whole bulb of garlic, halved
For the salt mix
2 tbsp sea salt
1 tbsp thyme leaves
1 tsp peppercorns
For the butter
100g butter
4 tbsp vegetable bouillon powder (we used Marigold)
1 lemon, zested (from the lemon for the turkey)
How to:
Up to two days ahead, make the salt mix by grinding the salt with the thyme leaves and pepper in a spice grinder or using a pestle and mortar. Sit the turkey in a roasting tin and gently push your fingers under the skin, starting from the neck, until you can push your whole hand in down the length of the breast. Take care not to tear the skin.
Season the bird all over with the salt mix, inside and out and under the skin. Leave the turkey in the tin, breast-side up, and put in the fridge for up to two days – the longer you salt it, the more succulent the turkey will be. For the crispest skin, leave the turkey uncovered so it dries out, but loosely cover it if you prefer.
Tip the butter, vegetable stock powder and lemon zest into a small bowl and mix until completely combined. Cover and chill. Can be made a few days ahead or frozen, wrapped in cling film, for one month.
Remove the turkey from the fridge an hour or so before you want to cook it. Remove the butter from the fridge to soften. Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Work out your cooking time based on 40 mins per kg for the first 4kg, plus 45 mins for every kg after that.

Use your hands to spread the butter under the skin so that it covers the entire breast area and work it into the crevice between the thigh and the main body, then smooth the skin over with your hands. Put the onion, lemon halves, and garlic in the cavity.
Cover the tin loosely with foil and roast for the calculated cooking time. Around 30 mins before the end of cooking, increase the oven temperature to 200C/180C fan/gas 6, remove the foil, baste the turkey and return to the oven. When the turkey is beautifully brown and cooked through, remove from the oven and leave to rest on a warm platter covered with foil for up to 1 hr. Save the juices to make gravy.

www.bbcgoodfood.com

MARINATED TURKEY BREAST WITH CUMIN, CORIANDER AND WHITE WINE

Ingredients:
4 tbsp mint leaves
4 tbsp parsley leaves
4 tbsp coriander leaves
1 garlic clove, peeled
60ml lemon juice
60ml olive oil
125ml white wine
½ tsp ground cumin
½ tsp salt
½ tsp black pepper
½ small organic or free-range turkey breast (about 1kg)
How to:
Put all the ingredients except the turkey breast in a food processor or blender and process for 1–2 minutes to get a smooth marinade. Put the turkey in a non-metallic container and pour the marinade over it. Massage the marinade into the meat, cover the container and leave in the fridge for 24 hours. Make sure the turkey is immersed in the sauce.
Preheat the oven to 220°C/Gas Mark 7. Remove the turkey from the marinade (keep the marinade for later) and put it on a roasting tray. Place in the oven and roast for 15 minutes, then reduce the temperature to 200°C/Gas Mark 6. Continue to cook for 15 minutes, then reduce the temperature again to 180°C/Gas Mark 4. Cook until the turkey is done – another 30–45 minutes. To check, stick a small knife all the way into the centre; it should come out hot. If the meat goes dark before it is ready, cover it with foil.
To prepare the sauce, heat up the turkey marinade in a small saucepan and simmer for 15 minutes, until reduced by about half. Taste and season with some more salt and pepper.
Remove the turkey from the oven and let it rest for 10 minutes. Slice it thinly and serve with the warm sauce.
To serve cold, leave the meat to cool completely and then slice. Adjust the seasoning of the sauce once it is cold and serve on the side.

www.ottolenghi.co.uk

Five Turkey Tips

A marinade will keep things nice and juicy as far as crowns and breast roasts are concerned. With a short-ish cooking time, the marinade does not have time to burn and dry out. A marinade, invariably, is a mix of fat (olive oil), acidity (wine, orange or lemon juice, mustards) and flavours (zests, garlic, herbs, sage etc). If you opt for a full bird, then flavoured butter between skin and breast helps keep everything nice and moist. Cooking liquid (stock, wine) in the base of the roasting pan will keep the legs and thighs juicy and a couple of onions/lemons/oranges in its cavity will also help too and give a gorgeous flavour.

A quick baste in the last 20 to 30 minutes will turn your turkey into a Hollywood version of bronzed, shiny perfection. All you need is a little bowl where you mix a couple of tablespoons of maple syrup and 120 g of butter, salt and pepper. Brush the turkey in the last 30 minutes of its cooking time twice (15 minute and ten minute intervals) giving it a final five for gloss.

A cooked turkey MUST rest and if you are after crisp skin do not cover it. A full bird will be happy sitting there for up to half an hour. As the kitchen will be red hot, do not worry too much. It is worth it!

Don't oversize when you buy. Most of us are looking forward to the main event and a few sarnies afterwards but when it gets to the fifth day and you are still chewing on it, it gets a tad disheartening. Here's what the BBC says about turkey sizes:
2-2.5kg serves 4-6
3kg serves 6-7
3.5kg serves 7-8
4-4.5kg serves 8-10
5-5.5kg serves 10-12
6-6.5kg serves 12-15

When you calculate your cooking time ADD the weight of the stuffing. A big bird may take 800 grams extra and you really have to factor that in!

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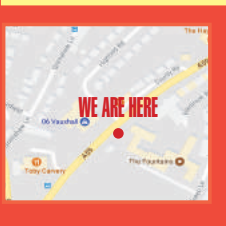

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GLAZED LENTIL WALNUT APPLE LOAF (V)

Ingredients:
195g of uncooked green lentils
175g of walnuts, finely chopped and toasted
3 tbsp ground flax + 120 ml water
3 garlic cloves, minced
2 diced white sweet onions
100g of diced celery
100g of grated carrot
75g peeled and grated sweet apple (use a firm variety)
40g of raisins
65g of oat flour
95g of breadcrumbs
2 tsp fresh thyme (or 3/4 tsp dried thyme)
salt & pepper, to taste
red pepper flakes, to taste
For the Balsamic Apple Glaze:
30g of ketchup
1 tbsp pure maple syrup
2 tbsp apple butter (or unsweetened apple sauce at a pinch)
2 tbsp balsamic vinegar
How to:
1. Preheat oven to 350F/180C. Rinse and strain lentils. Place lentils into pot along with 3 cups of water (or veg broth). Bring to a boil and season with salt. Reduce heat to medium/low and simmer, uncovered, for at least 40-45 minutes. Stir frequently and add touch of water if needed. The goal is to over-cook the lentils slightly. Mash lentils slightly with a spoon when ready.
2. Toast walnuts in a dry pan for a few minutes. Keep your eye on those as they burn easily.
3. Whisk ground flax with water in a small bowl and set aside.
4. Heat a teaspoon of olive oil in a skillet over medium heat. Sautee the garlic and onion for about 5 minutes. Season with salt. Now add in the diced celery, shredded carrot and apple, and raisins. Sautee for about 5 minutes more. Remove from heat.
5. In a large mixing bowl, mix all ingredients together, seasoning to taste.
6. Grease a loaf pan and line with parchment paper. Press mixture firmly into pan. Whisk glaze ingredients and then spread half on top of loaf. Reserve the rest for a dipping sauce.
7. Bake for 40-50 minutes, uncovered. Edges will be lightly brown. Cool in pan for at least 10 minutes before transferring to a cooling rack.

www.ohsheglows.com

SALMON WITH CRANBERRY, PARSLEY & NUT CRUST

Ingredients:
125 g of panko breadcrumbs
65 g of dried cranberries chopped + 2-3 tablespoons extra for garnish
40 grams of slivered almonds, 40g of pine nuts
A large handful of flat-leaf parsley chopped + extra for garnish
2-3 tablespoons of thyme leaves finely chopped
finely grated zest of 1 lemon, finely grated zest of 1 orange
75 grams of melted butter + 2-3 tablespoons extra for drizzling
1 whole side (about 1.5kg) fresh salmon
1 lemon cut into wedges, to serve
How to:
Preheat oven to 200 C. Line a large baking or oven tray with baking paper.
1. In a medium bowl, mix panko breadcrumbs, cranberries, almonds, pine nuts, parsley, thyme and lemon and orange zest together. Stir in melted butter and season with salt and pepper.
2. Pat salmon dry with paper towels and remove any remaining pin bones. Place salmon on prepared tray, skin-side-down. Season well with salt and sprinkle crust mixture evenly on top, pressing down gently to adhere. Drizzle over a little more melted butter. Place on a shelf in the middle of the oven, and bake for about 20-25 minutes or until salmon is just cooked through (it is best cooked medium) and crust is golden.
3. Garnish with more chopped cranberries and parsley for colour. Serve with lemon wedges to squeeze over, baby potatoes and salad boiled and tossed with butter, garlic, parsley and lemon, and a salad of watercress, orange segments, avocado and blanched asparagus.

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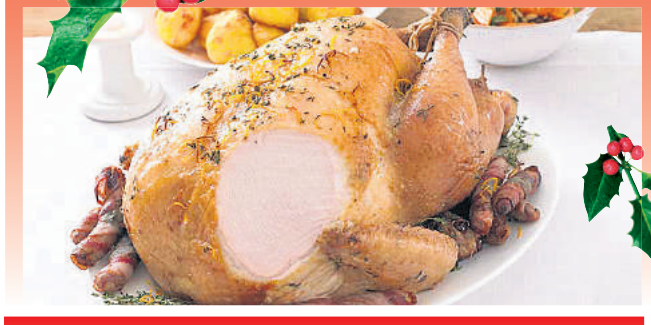

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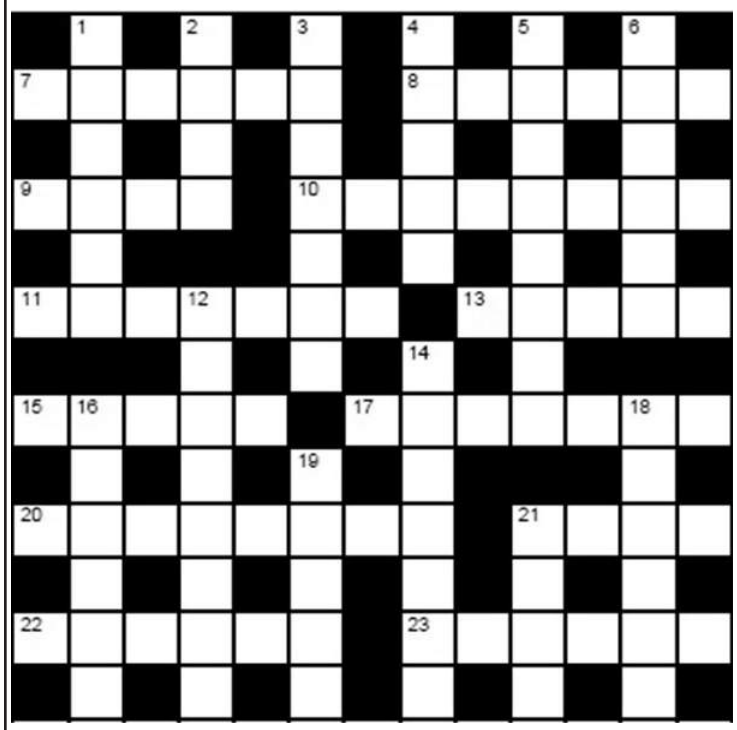

Last week's solutions:
Across: 7. Deadly. 8. Enrage. 9. Once. 10. Open-plan. 11. Shut-eye. 13. Oldie. 15. Entry. 16. Remnant. 18. Dissuade. 19. Iffy. 21. Thames. 22. Global.
Down: 1. Mean. 2. Adventuresome. 3. Synonym. 4. Melee. 5. Grappling iron. 6. Agrarian. 12. Hen night. 14. Revenge. 17. False. 20. Foal.

ACROSS

7. Untidy, careless writing (6)
8. Ridiculously small or few (6)
9. Evaluate (4)
10. Another name for Methane (5, 3)
11. Instructor (7)
13. Come or bring to an end (5)
15. Reassemble, regroup (5)
17. Charge made by a restaurant or hotel for serving wine brought in by a customer (7)
20. English county famous for tin mining and pasties (7)
21. The short tail of a hare, rabbit, or deer (4)
22. Unlawfully seize an aircraft in transit (6)
23. Green fodder compacted, stored in airtight conditions and used as winter animal feed (6)

DOWN

1. The series of glacial episodes during the Pleistocene period (3, 3)
2. Loathe, detest (4)
3. Informal term for prison (7)
4. Fully shaded inner region of a shadow cast by an opaque object (5)
5. Counter or compartment in a shop or restaurant where payments are made (4, 4)
6. On every occasion (6)
12. Chart showing the days, weeks, and months of a particular year (8)
14. Highly seasoned Hungarian stew of meat and vegetables flavoured with paprika (7)
16. Handsome youth in Greek mythology (6)
18. A persistent feeling of ill will or resentment resulting from a past insult or injury (6)
19. Japanese poem of 17 syllables, in three lines of five, seven, and five (5)
21. The exchange of a commodity for money (4)

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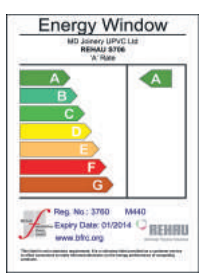

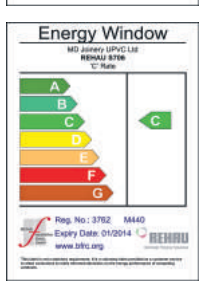

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Village society celebrating festive season with concert

PARBOLD Douglas Music is inviting its audience to join in the Festive Season with a traditional Christmas Reverie of popular melodies played by Intrada Brass Ensemble in the Auditorium at the Village Hall this Saturday (December 9) at 7.45 p.m.

This ensemble of eleven brass musicians will perform a classic Christmas programme including: Coventry Carol, Jingle Bells, I Saw Three Ships, Ding Dong Merrily on High and Season's Greetings. Throughout the evening there will be some audience participation.

Intrada Brass Ensemble is based in Preston and was formed originally as a quartet in the 1970's, gradually developing into the eleven-piece ensemble we have today.

Intrada Brass is a mix of established and freelance professionals.

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	Skipton Christmas Market	£15.90
Tue 12th	York for St Nicholas Fayre	£17.90
Thu 14th	Manchester for Christmas Markets	£11.90
Sat 16th	The World Famous Bury Market	£12.90
Sun 17th	Lakeland Lunch & Cruise *inc 3 course lunch & cruise*	£39.90
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Thu 28th	Christmas @ Chatsworth House *inc admission*	£32.90

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Duncan James and Jodie Prenger leading panto cast

TELEVISION, musical theatre and pop star Duncan James and actress and singer Jodie Prenger will lead the cast of this year's family pantomime, Cinderella from Saturday, December 16 at the Liverpool Empire.

Duncan and Jodie

Playing Prince Charming is singer-songwriter, television presenter, actor and all-round entertainer Duncan James.

Best-known as a member of the band Blue, Duncan and his bandmates released five studio albums, 16 singles, collaborated with artists including Stevie Wonder and Elton John and represented the UK in the 2011 Eurovision Song Contest.

Duncan has appeared in the West End in Chicago and Legally Blonde, and has appeared on numerous television programmes, including Soapstar Superstar and Dancing on Ice where he made it to the final.

In 2015 Duncan starred as Tick in Priscilla Queen of the Desert the Musical at various theatres across the UK and began filming his role of policeman Ryan Knight in Hollyoaks, filmed in nearby Childwall. His recurring role saw him nominated at the recent National Television Awards for Best Soap Newcomer.

Best-known for winning the coveted role of Nancy in the West End revival of Lionel Bart's Oliver! through the BBC talent show I'd Do Anything, Jodie Prenger rose to fame singing for survival in front of a panel of famous judges and millions of television viewers every Saturday night. After a brief appearance in Les Misérables, Jodie went on to perform the role of Nancy to public and critical acclaim at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, winning the Theatregoers' Choice Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical.

In addition to her stage work Jodie appeared as Diane in the BBC series Candy Cabs. She is a regular guest DJ for BBC Radio 2 and came second in Let's Dance for Comic Relief. Jodie has toured the UK extensively in the one-woman musical, Andrew Lloyd-Webber's Tell Me On a Sundayand starred in the title role of Calamity Janeon its UK tour.

Joining them as Cinderella's best-friend Buttons will be comedian and entertainer John Evans. John has entertained the audiences with his quick-fire wit for over 30 years, across the UK and on international waters aboard major cruise ships and on television. No stranger to the city of Liverpool, John played the role of Gerry Edwards in the football comedy One Night in Istanbul in front of 6,000 people at the Echo Arena, and has appeared twice at The Actors Studio in Closing Time and Falling out with the Jones's.

Audiences shall go to the ball this Christmas as Cinderella transforms from rags to riches, outwits her very Ugly Sisters, and with the help of her hilarious friend Buttons and one very magical Fairy Godmother, wins the heart of the dashing Prince Charming.

Cinderella will be produced by Qdos Entertainment, the world's biggest pantomime producer in a new partnership with Liverpool Empire operators, ATG.

The Ghosts of Christmas Past is on at St George's Hall

Delve into Dickensian production

AFTER its success in 2016, Lovehistory have returned this Christmas with their festive production The Ghosts of Christmas Past,which is at Liverpool's St George's Hall until Wednesday, December 13.

The creative minds behind 2015's Dickensian Christmas time and the ever-popular Murder at St George's Hall and Catacombs of Liverpool's Darkest History series present their latest promenade production.

The Ghosts of Christmas Past delves into the depths of a Dickensian world, bringing to life some of the most beloved characters from much loved novelist Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol– with a specific focus on the darker elements of one of the authors' best loved classics.

It is Christmas Eve, and as the old skinflint Ebenezer Scrooge is about to retire to his bed contemplating his fortune, he is disturbed by the haunting presence of the ghosts of his past.

Go back to Victorian times as the performance journeys through Ebenezer's chilling encounter, as he is urged to heed the spirits messages and change his ways.

The passages and cells below St George's Hall provide the backdrop from which Lovehistory recreate the dark underworld that Dickens so often explored in his works – the perfect setting for these ghostly tales, presented by professional actors.

LoveHistory have been setting a trend for live promenade theatre experiences for more than five years and this Christmas special aims to provide an authentic Dickensian experience.

Visitors will encounter the old miser himself, the humble and poor Cratchit family, and of course the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future.

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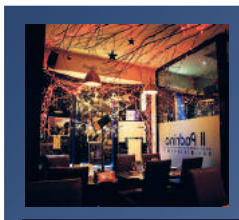

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HOME ENTERTAINMENT

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HOUSE AND HOME

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MAMAS&PAPAS Lovely wardrobe and chest of drawers/ changer, light oak in lovely condition, buyer collects. £60. 0151 5269326

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CHILDS Rocking wooden cot for a doll £10 07919888743

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2017/1122/FUL Extension of existing play area and installation of new play equipment and fences at Sports Pavilion And Memorial Playing Field, Halsall Road, Halsall.

Application No: 2017/1208/FUL Alterations of first floor of existing cottage to form new gable and dormer window to enlarge existing bedrooms at Suttons Farm Cottage, Sanderson Lane, Hilldale, Heskin.

Application No: 2017/1222/FUL Single storey front and side extension. Roof alterations and front porch at 34 Rivington Drive, Up Holland.

Application No: 2017/1235/FUL Variation of Condition No. 7 imposed on planning permission 2017/0500/FUL to allow the landscaping scheme to be brought into use as shown on Drawing No. P1269 06L received by the Local Planning Authority on 22/11/2017. Variation of Condition No. 8 imposed on planning permission 2017/0500/FUL to allow construction of the new boundary treatment as shown on Drawing No. P1269 11_A received by the Local Planning Authority on 22/11/2017 at Robinsons Farm, Cranes Lane, Lathom.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Director of Development and Regeneration — Dated: 6th December 2017 PDNOT977

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BIRTHDAYS

FORFAR SARA

6th December 2017

HAPPY 40th BIRTHDAY

Have a Wonderful Birthday Sara

With Love and Best Wishes on your Special Day

Love Mum, Andrew and Nan xx

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BAILEY ERIC

Mavis and family would like to give sincere thanks to relatives and friends for their expressions of sympathy, love and support at this sad time.
Many thanks to Rev. P Goodrich for a comforting service in celebration of Eric's life, and to Stocks Hall Ormskirk for their kindness shown to Eric. Special thanks for the many kind donations to Parkinsons UK (Ormskirk Branch) and to Hunters of Ormskirk for their caring and efficient arrangements.

ELLIS MURIEL

The family of the late Muriel Ellis would like to express their sincere thanks to all the relatives, friends and neighbours for all their messages of condolence, sympathy cards and donations for YKids Children's Charity Bootle, received during their recent sad loss. Thanks also to all the staff at Asmall Hall, Ormskirk for their care and attention given, Rev. Ross Moughtin for his kind words of comfort, and Sally Hunter and the Team at MLS Independent Funeral Directors for their dignified Funeral Arrangements.

IN MEMORIAM

JULIE CARTER NEE (MCFARLANE)

23rd July 1964
- 5th December 2008

Your tenth Christmas away from home.
In our hearts and thoughts forever.
Love from
Mum, Dad
Alan and Nicki
Til we meet again over the rainbow
xxxx

MCKENDRICK BRIDIE

11th December 2014

Sadly missed and always remembered.

From Barbara and Chris

GARVEY ANNA

10th December

From your loving Husband Joe, Sons and Daughter, Grand Daughters and Great Grand Daughter.
Sadly missed and loved every day.
xxx

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DEATHS

SEDDON JAMES

Peacefully in Hospital on 25th November 2017 aged 82 years

Dearly beloved partner of Audrey and family. Much loved Dad and Grandad. Dear Brother and much loved Uncle.
Funeral Service will take place at St Johns the Baptist C of E Church, Burscough on Thursday 7th December 2017 at 2pm. Followed by Interment in the Churchyard. Family flowers only by request please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for the British Legion Burscough.
Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough Lancashire L40 5UU
Tel: 01704 897770

HODGE AUDREY

16th September 2017

Beloved Wife of the late Stan. Loved and remembered by all her family and friends.
Service and Crematorium at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough on Thursday 7th December at 11.00am.
All enquiries to Graham J Clegg Funeral Service, 7 Dover Road Maghull
Tel: 0151 520 3330

EVANS HARRY AND ELAINE

16th September 2017

Loved and Remembered by all their family and friends.
Service and Cremation at West Lancashire Crematorium Pippin Street Burscough on Thursday 7th December at 11.00am.
All enquiries to Graham J Clegg Funeral Service 7 Dover Road, Maghull.
Tel 0151 520 3330.

DEATHS

ROBERTS CLARE

2nd December 2017
Passed away peacefully at home aged 82 years of Newburgh

Much loved Wife of Eric, Fantastic Mum of Jacqueline and Amanda, and dear Mother-In-Law of Paul, and loving Grandma of Tara, Harry, and Bobby.
She has left a hole in our lives, and will be forever in our hearts and minds, she will be missed terribly.
Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium Burscough on Friday 15th December at 12:15pm.
Flowers or donations in lieu are bring gratefully received for Redwings Horse Sanctuary. Flowers, donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a Liverpool Road North, Burscough, L40 5TP.
Tele: 01704 891555

WRIGHT VIOLET CECILIA

29th November 2017
Died peacefully at home surrounded by family

Violet will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service to take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough Monday 11th December 2017 at 1pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Macmillan Cancer Support.
Further enquiries and donations to Newland and Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, PR4 6RJ.
Telephone: 01772 811165

RICE BERNARD (BARNEY)

29th November 2017
Passed away peacefully in hospital Aged 63 years

Dad of Stephen, Allan, Philip & Sarah and a dear Grandad of all his Grandchildren. Family flowers only please, but donations if so desired for St. Anne's Roof Appeal.
For Funeral arrangements and further enquiries please contact Sally Hunter, MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk.
Tel: 01695 424888.

DEATHS

McKINNON JOAN

29th November 2017
Peacefully at Aaron Crest Nursing Home Skelmersdale Aged 75 years

The dearly loved Wife of Jimmy, loving Mum of Susan, Stan and Stuart, dear Mother-In-Law of Jeff, Sharon and Cinzia and devoted Nan to all her Grand and Great-Grandchildren.
Funeral service at St Francis of Assisi Rc Church, Skelmersdale on Thursday 7th December 2017 at 10:30am followed by Cremation at St Helens Crematorium. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman of Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick.
Tel: 01695 722122/720012

BALL MURIEL

29th November 2017
Aged 97 years

Died peacefully. Devoted Wife of the late Lawrence. Much loved Mum of Lesley and the late David, adored Mother-in-law of Derek and Lois, cherished Grandmother of Sean and David and Great Grandmother to all of her Great Grandchildren.
Service at Marshside Road Methodist Church on Friday 15th December at 10:00am followed by private family interment. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Multiple Sclerosis Society.
Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR.
Telephone: 01704 500086.

PATTERSON ALAN

Peacefully at home on 23rd November 2017 aged 84 years

Devoted Husband to Flo, Father to Andrew, Luise and Julie and Brother to Maurice. Beloved Grandfather and Uncle. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.
Funeral service will now be held at Emmanuel Methodist Church, Ormskirk on Monday 11th December at 1:30pm followed by a Committal for family and close friends to be held at West Lancashire Crematorium. Family flowers only please, but if desired, donations are being gratefully received for the St. Paul's Eye Unit at the Royal Liverpool Hospital (Attn. T. Southern) or for Emmanuel Methodist Church. For enquiries/details, please contact Hunters of Ormskirk, 128B Burscough Street, Ormskirk, L39 2EY (Tel:01695 572997)

DEATHS

HART BARBARA ANN

27th November 2017
Passed away peacefully at Park Grove Care Home, Burscough. Aged 80 years of Ormskirk, formerly of Wavertree, Liverpool

Much loved Mum to Elaine and Damian. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.
Requiem Mass at St. John's R.C. Church, Burscough on Friday 8th December at 12.00 noon, followed by committal at West Lancs Crematorium, Burscough. Flowers are welcome or donations in lieu are being gratefully received for The Dogs Trust and St. John's Catholic Church, Burscough.
Flowers, Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a, Liverpool Road North, Burscough L40 5TP.
Tele: 01704 891555.

ADDY SHARON ELIZABETH

Passed away peacefully at Queenscourt Hospice on 29th November 2017 Aged 57 years of Burscough

Dearly loved Wife of Steve, much loved Mum of Rachel, Sean, Natalie and Georgia. Grandmother to Olivia and Joe. Sister to Lynne, Richard and Robert. Loved and missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service and Interment at St. Johns CofE Burscough on Thursday 7th December 2017 at 11.30am.
Family flowers only please by request, but donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice.
Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a, Liverpool Road North, Burscough.
Tel: 01704 891555

HOLLAND IAN

Passed away on 1st December 2017 Aged 63 years of Scarisbrick formerly of Ormskirk

Loving Husband of Pauline, beloved Son of the late June, dear Step-Son of Charlie. Loved and missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at West Lancs Crematorium on Wednesday 13th December at 10am. Family flowers only by request, but donations if so desired for Cancer Research.
Donations and further enquiries please contact Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton.
Tel 01695 424888.

DEATHS

McKINNON JOAN

29th November 2017

Mum, a golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest.
We knew that day God only took the best.
We sat beside your bed, our hearts were crushed & sore.
We did our duty to the end 'till we could do no more. In tears we watched you sinking, we watched you fade away. And though our hearts were breaking we could not make you stay.
RIP Mum... ♥
Heartbroken Husband Jimmy, Daughter Susan & Jeff, Son's Stan & Sharon and Stuart & Cinzia, Grandchildren Charlotte, Alexander, Rebecca, Elliott, John, Ellie, Ryan, Elena, John and Euan and Great-Children Sonny, Luchia, Rocho, Harry, Teddy, Jack and Georgie
XX

DEATHS

CHAMBERS JOE

25th November 2017
Peacefully at Birch Green Care Centre, Skelmersdale Aged 78 years

The dearly loved Husband of Mary, loving Dad of George, Stephen, Lynne and Tracey, dear Father in law of Angela, Sammy (deceased), Dave and Harvey and devoted Grandad to all his Grand and Great Grandchildren.
Funeral service at St Francis of Assisi RC Church, Skelmersdale on Wednesday 6th December 2017 at 10.30am followed by interment at Liverpool Road Cemetery, Skelmersdale.
Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Birch Green Care Centre.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman of H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick.
Tel:- 01695 722122 / 720012

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The post you are applying for is covered by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (as amended in 2013). If successful you will be required to apply to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for a 'disclosure'. Information provided by you or the Disclosure and Barring Service will be dealt with in a confidential manner in accordance with the DBS's Code of Practice. You may view the Code of Practice on the DBS website at www.gov.uk/dbs or alternatively a copy is available on request.
Lancashire County Council has a Policy Statement on the Recruitment of Ex-offenders this is available to all applicants upon request.
Closing date: 22 December 2017.

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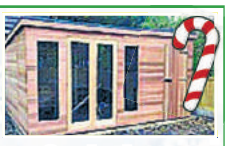
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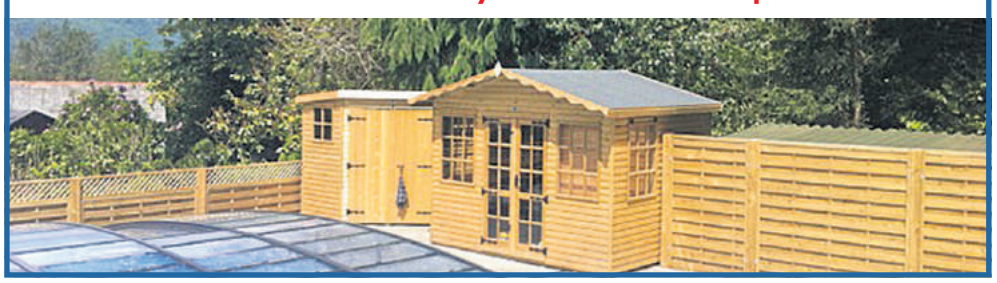

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Navigating remote areas without a sat nav is a skill all drivers need to acquire

I worry driving without a sat nav will become a lost art in future

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GET LOST! That'd be my main piece of advice for any newly certified car nuts who – as of this week – will have ripped their L-plates up after passing the revamped driving test.

You might have already read that as of Monday anyone nervously edging out of the test centre in a borrowed Vauxhall Corsa will have to do a new, modernised test aimed at better reflecting what it's like to drive in 2017. Out go the three-point-turn (sorry, 'turn in the road'), and the reversing around a corner (the bit I always failed on), and in come parking up on the opposite side of the road and more independent driving.

But the real eye-grabber is that in four out of five tests you'll be expected to take your instructions from a squawking TomTom sat smugly on the dashboard. I'm all for people being taught to drive with satnavs properly – hopefully it'll mean fewer Ford Fiestas being driven off slipways into the sea – but I worry that driving *without* them is going to become a lost art.

I very rarely drive with any satnav on; I've never owned one and only ever resort to my phone's inbuilt system when I'm well and truly stuffed. Having been directed to a nondescript Dutch postcode on the wrong side of Rotterdam and nearly missed my ferry home as a result, I've had my fingers burnt by satnav mischievousness before. Then there are all the times when you end up in an obscure bit of countryside when the system stops working, or simply when a mate gives you duff directions. It's only then that your ability to read tiny 1930s road signs or pulling over to ask people with strange accents for directions comes into its own.

My worry is that new drivers are going to end up so used to using satnav on every journey that they'll end up completely unstuck should the system stop working.

Which is why I'd suggest the first thing anyone passing the new test should do is persuade a mate to blindfold them, stick 'em in the passenger seat and drive them to a tiny village somewhere in the Trough of Bowland. Admittedly this will look like a scene from a poorly-funded gangster film – particularly if your first car is a Vauxhall Adam – but once the blindfold comes off and you swap seats you have to navigate your way home, using only signs, intuition and a coffee-stained AA road atlas.

Only then, having mastered the art of making it home the authentically old-school way, can you be truly qualified in getting about behind the wheel. If you can't, get lost.

Practice makes perfect, after all…

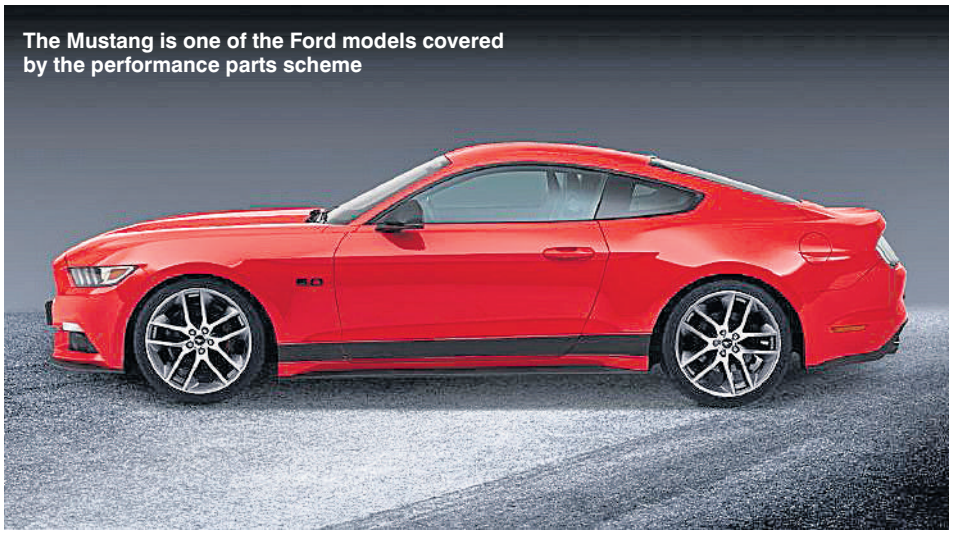
David is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

Grown up boy racers can fettle Fords

GROWN-UP boy racers can fettle their Fords with a new range of go-faster performance parts – and they're all covered by the existing warranty.

The Fiesta and Focus ST, Focus RS and Mustang models can all be souped up with parts provided from specialists including Roush, Borla, KW and Remus - and they're all available to order now.

For more information on this model, or any of the other ranges that Ford has for sale, get in touch with your nearest Ford dealer or go online and visit www.ford.co.uk



The Mustang is one of the Ford models covered by the performance parts scheme

New range-topping Grandland out now

VAUXHALL has just introduced a more luxurious, range-topping version of its Grandland X off-roader.

Buy it in Ultimate trim and you'll be treated to gadgets including dual-zone climate control, lane departure warnings and rear parking sensors, and there's also the option of going for the company's new 177bhp 2-litre turbodiesel engine.

It's available to order now, with prices starting at £33,995.

The Grandland X is now available in range-topping Ultimate trim

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66 FORD C-MAX TITANIUM 1.5 TDCI NAVIGATOR, deep impact blue, sat nav, Bluetooth, 9,000, front and rear parking sensors **£13,999**

16 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-TEC+, electric blue metallic, panoramic roof, sat nav, reverse camera, Bluetooth etc, 10,000 miles only, cost new £24,000 ..... **now only £15,999**

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16 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 1.5 TDCI (new model), moondust silver with appearance pack & SYNC, zero road tax ..... **huge saving from only £10,999**

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16 MERCEDES-BENZ C220D SE AUTO 4-Dr, Obsidian black, black faux leather trim, alloys, A/C, elec pack, sat nav pre wire, Bluetooth etc, 14,000 miles only **£19,999**

16 MERCEDES-BENZ GLA CLASS AMG 200D 4MATIC, selenite grey, dark artico trim, 4x4 model with great spec including rear view camera etc, 13,000 miles ..... **exceptional value £22,999**

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13 FORD KUGA ZETEC 2.0 TDCI, moondust silver, privacy glass, roof rails, alloys, A/C etc ..... **value at £10,499**

12 LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2 2.2 HSE AUTO, balmoral green metallic, full leather trim, panoramic roof, sat nav, Bluetooth etc, one owner, full history **£13,999**

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15 FORD C-MAX ZETEC 1.6 TDCI, panther black, A/C, alloys, Bluetooth, £20 road tax **£8,499**

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64 CITROEN BERLINGO MULTISPACE 1.6 E-HDI AUTOMATIC, diamond black, A/C, cruise control, CD/radio, 17,000 miles only **£9,999**

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04 TOYOTA RAV 4 XTS, blue, manual, alloys, sunroof **£2495**
54 SUZUKI JIMNY PETROL 3DR **£2495**
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• Privacy Glass
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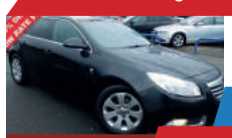

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• FSH
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• FSH

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62 Vauxhall Antara 2.2 Cdti Se 4X4

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• FSH
• Priv Glass

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• FSH
• 56000 Miles

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• 1 Owner
• FSH
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14 Bmw 320 Diesel Efficiency 4 Dr

• 1 Owner
• Leather
• FSH

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65 Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 Cdti Tourer Sri

• VX Line
• 1 Owner
• 37000 Miles

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• Sat Nav
• App Pack
• 18000 Miles

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14 Mercedes B180 cdl Sport

• 1 Owner
• Alloys
• 48000 Miles

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63 Mercedes C250 Cdi AMG Sport 4 Dr

• Automatic
• 51000 Miles
• FSH

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62 Jaguar Xf 2.2 Sport Auto

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• FSH
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• FSH
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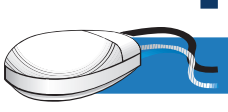

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Deposit Allowance	£1,800.00	Annual Mileage	5,000
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00	Total Amount Payable	£13,667.06
Amount of Credit	£9,783.21	**APR Representative**	5.3%
47 Monthly Payments	£149.98		

Brand New Vauxhall Corsa
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£1800 Finance Deposit Allowance

For just **£199** per month

£199 customer deposit

£500 minimum part ex

Cash Price	£14,730.00	Optional Final Payment	£4,204.00
Customer Deposit	£199.00	Interest Charges	£1,370.658
Deposit Allowance	£1,800.00	Annual Mileage	5,000
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00	Total Amount Payable	£16,398.65
Amount of Credit	£12,321.00	**APR Representative**	5.1%
47 Monthly Payments	£199.00		

Brand New Vauxhall Adam
Energised 1.2i 3dr
£1600 Finance Deposit Allowance

For just **£189** per month

£189 customer deposit

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Cash Price	£14,085.57	Optional Final Payment	£4,251.00
Customer Deposit	£189.00	Interest Charges	£1,337.43
Deposit Allowance	£1,600.00	Annual Mileage	5,000
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00	Total Amount Payable	£15,423.00
Amount of Credit	£11,796.57	**APR Representative**	4.2%
47 Monthly Payments	£189.00		

Brand New Vauxhall Crossland X
1.2 SE 5dr
£1000 Finance Deposit Allowance

For just **£189** per month

£189 customer deposit

£500 minimum part ex

Cash Price	£14,997.21	Optional Final Payment	£6,033.00
Customer Deposit	£189.00	Interest Charges	£1,607.79
Deposit Allowance	£1,000.00	Annual Mileage	5,000
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00	Total Amount Payable	£16,605.00
Amount of Credit	£13,308.21	**APR Representative**	4.2%
47 Monthly Payments	£189.00		

Brand New Vauxhall Mokka X
1.4T Active 5dr
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For just **£229** per month

£229 customer deposit

£500 minimum part ex

Cash Price	£18,817.29	Optional Final Payment	£6,745.00
Customer Deposit	£229.00	Interest Charges	£1,865.77
Deposit Allowance	£2,400.00	Annual Mileage	5,000
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00	Total Amount Payable	£20,683.06
Amount of Credit	£15,688.29	**APR Representative**	4.2%
47 Monthly Payments	£229.98		

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1.5T 165 Design

For just **£229** per month

£229 customer deposit

£500 minimum part ex

Cash Price	£16,696.82	Optional Final Payment	£7,125.00
Customer Deposit	£229.00	Interest Charges	£1,920.18
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00	Annual Mileage	5,000
Amount of Credit	£15,967.82	Total Amount Payable	£18,617.00
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CUSTOMER EXCELLENCE AWARD 2017

VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 12.7 (22.3) – 74.3 (3.8), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) – 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) – 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 emissions: 373 - 89g/km.#

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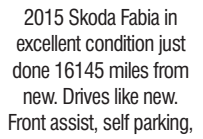

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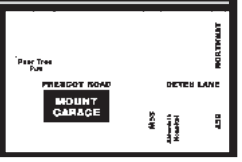

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Skem's unbeaten league run comes to a disappointing end

Skelmersdale United 0
Colwyn Bay 2

SKELMERSDALE United's unbeaten league run of six games came to an end after they were undone by a poor first half performance, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

Dave Powell's side conceded twice in the opening 45 minutes, leaving them a mountain to climb after the break and despite having most of the possession in the second half they couldn't rescue the game.

Bartle scores the visitor's second goal

It is possible that having only played three competitive games in the whole of November and none at all since November 20 that Skelmersdale were rusty and Colwyn Bay scored in the 14th minute.

Before the goal Skelmersdale goalkeeper Lee Callum Roberts had saved from a Danny Bartle header and then saved with his feet when Colwyn number nine Astley Mulholland was forced wide when running onto a through ball.

The opening goal came when a right-wing corner was met by a mistimed header and the ball dropped into the six yard box and in the scramble Colwyn's Will Booth with his back to goal was able to speculatively back heel the ball home from about two yards out.

In response the best Skem could do was force a punch clearance out of away goalkeeper Matt Cooper from a Bevan Burey cross.

When Colwyn got their second goal bang on the half-hour it was a well worked build-up but had a huge slice of luck attached to the final outcome.

The move down the left saw the ball sent to Mulholland and he released the ball sideways to Danny Bartle whose shot was going low to Roberts right-hand, however a vicious deflection off a Skem defender sent the ball to low Roberts left and into the net.

Skelmersdale bucked their ideas up after the second goal and might even have pulled a goal back before half-time.

Keeper Cooper saved from Skem striker Andy Owens then dived to his left to keep out another shot from Owens.

He then in almost an action replay did the same from an Owens free-kick. All this time all Colwyn could produce was a shot from Louis Barnes that was punched away by Roberts.

The second-half started like the first had ended, with Skem on the offensive.

On 50 minutes Burey put a shot over the crossbar before Owens was frustrated twice by last ditch tackles, the first by Sam Barnes then another tremendous one on 62 minutes by Gareth Grant.

If Skelmersdale had got a goal back in this period of pressure it would very likely have been a totally different game.

Skelmersdale could given luck have recovered but ultimately their slow start to the game cost them.

Linnets hold promotion chasers for deserved point

Burscough 1
Charnock Richard 1

BURSCOUGH went into the match as underdogs against promotion hopefuls Charnock Richard but came away with a share of the spoils, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

The away side are 19 points ahead of Burscough in the North-West Counties Premier Division table and with six games in hand.

They also beat the Linnets at their own ground 5-2 three weeks ago, so it was reasonable to say that they started long odds on to win.

After they had seen off an opening salvo from promotion chasing Charnock Richard it was Burscough who had by far the best of the play in the first 20 minutes or so.

Charnock Richard took the lead in the 31st minute. Mark Woods lifted a corner right into the six yard box, Carl Grimshaw lost his marker and headed home from around three yards out. It was a textbook set piece goal and had arrived against the balance of play.

Charnock Richard started the second-half looking like they were determined to kill the game off.

That all changed on 77 minutes when Cummings cut in off the left wing and dribbled into the Charnock penalty area.

His diagonal shot hit the far post and the ball stopped on the line. Burscough's Ben Maddocks sprinted in with two defenders on his shoulders but got to the ball first and duly equalised to make it 1-1.

It was now anybody's game and on 85 minutes Burscough had a goal disallowed for a foul.

It was no fluke that Burscough picked up a point and the debate will go on about the disallowed goal that could well have won it for them.

Both sides hopeful of three points

FOR a second consecutive Saturday, the Christmas shopping will have to go on hold as both local teams are at home and both games are very winnable!

Skelmersdale United play struggling Ossett Albion at Volair Park, in Prescot.

The West Yorkshire-based side are second to bottom of Evo-Stik Division One North and have an away record that reads played nine drawn one and lost eight, so Skem's prospects must be good.

Burscough are at home to Northwich Victoria. Dave Sutton's side drew 1-1 away in Cheshire back in September, so they will also be very hopeful of success.

Neither team has a midweek game next week, before Burscough are at home to West Didsbury & Chorlton on Saturday, December 16 and Skelmersdale travel to Trafford on the same

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